Wolverhampton
# CHRONICLE

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## Concern that delay in removing travellers will be costly

# MOVE THEM ON, SAY RESIDENTS

Report by Annabal Bagdi

**A TRAVELLERS camp remains on playing fields almost a week after caravans first moved on.**

Neighbours of Windsor Avenue playing fields are angry that the new arrivals have not been removed from Penn in Wolverhampton.

It comes as concerns are raised taxpayers will end up footing a mounting bill because of Wolverhampton Council's 'delayed response' to travellers in the area, which cost up to £30,000 last year.

Fires lit at site

At least 10 caravans were spotted pitching up on the green space overnight last Wednesday. That was said to have grown to around 20 over the weekend with residents, who did not want to be named for fear of reprisals, saying the group had been going to the toilet in the open and lighting fires.

Conservative group deputy leader Paul Singh has since called on the council to remove the travellers. He said council bosses needed to 'use its powers' to immediately hand an eviction notice to the trespassers and improve security at the green space.

### Delayed

Councillor Singh, who represents Penn, said: "Penn residents were let down in July when the council delayed action to move the travellers on. This cannot be allowed to happen again."

"The delayed response from the council previously resulted in criminal damage, numerous health and safety issues and a cost of up to £30,000 to the taxpayers of Wolverhampton."

Councillor Steve Evans, Cabinet Member for City Environment said: "I understand residents' frustration however, even though we responded as quickly as possible, the legal process takes time. Within less than 24 hours, our Public Protection team served the Notice on the unauthorised traveller encampment and acquired the earliest available court date to enable us to legally evict the occupants and resecure our land.

"We are actively working to achieve a long-term solution to this issue whilst operating within the remits of what the courts allow us to do."

## FINAL FAREWELL TO OUR LEGEND CYRILLE

Fans, staff and West Bromwich Albion players applaud as the hearse arrives and, inset, Cyrille Regis

HUNDREDS of football fans gathered at The Hawthorns and lined roads leading to the ground to say their final farewell to football hero Cyrille Regis when his funeral was held on Tuesday.

The pioneering footballer, who played for Albion, Villa and Wolves while paving the way for a generation of black footballers, was celebrated at The Hawthorns with a public service. Players and officials lined up to applaud the well-respected footballer when the hearse arrived at The Hawthorns as fans gathered to pay their respects to a Black Country football hero.

Following a private family funeral in the morning, the celebration of his life with 1,800 people in the East Stand was including tributes from those closest to the him from the world of sport and entertainment. Beverley Knight sang at the service with tributes being given by his former team mate Brendon Batson, his widow Julia and his nephew former Albion footballer Jason Roberts.

Instead of flowers the family asked well-wishers to donate to three charities close to Cyrille's heart, The Jason Roberts Foundation, Water Aid and Christians in Sport.

Cyrille died on January 14 from a suspected heart attack at the age of 59.

● Musical tribute – Page 3

CIVIC

## Sacking call over revamp fiasco

CALLS have been made for a city council to sack any officers held responsible for the botched revamp of Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

The overhaul of the venue has bust its budget by more than £23 million and is set to stay closed until 2020 as a result.

Council bosses say they plan to fund the project – which started two years ago – by selling off land and buildings. But concerns have been raised over the future of events already planned for the venue.

Ian Jenkins, chairman of the city's Lib Dems, has written to council leader Roger Lawrence demanding answers. He asked: "Will those responsible be asked to resign?

● Risk involved – Page 3

HOSPITAL

## Cladding to stay, say health chiefs

CLADDING on a New Cross hospital centre will remain on the building, health bosses said.

The material, on the hospital's Heart and Lung Centre, failed a safety test following the Grenfell Tower tragedy. Board members were told at a Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust meeting there were no immediate plans to remove it. The trust will wait until after an inquiry into the London disaster.

CARILLION

## Prison contracts are now covered

AROUND 1,000 jobs put at risk by the collapse of Carillion have been saved after the Government stepped in to take over the running of its prison contracts.

A new government-run company will deliver services previously provided by the Wolverhampton-based firm, including cleaning and maintenance work.

● Accountants probe – Page 5

INSIDE

## FEISTY FINALE TO FESTIVAL

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# Result! Poppy shirts up for grabs

One of the shirts

MATCH-WORN football shirts emblazoned with poppies are going under the hammer. The shirts were worn by Wolves stars during the team's 2-0 victory over Fulham on November 3.

A total of 14 shirts, which are also signed by the players, are being auctioned on website CharityStars in aid of the Royal British Legion's (RBL) Poppy Appeal. They are part of the Sky Bet Poppy Auction.

Wolves won the game thanks to early goals from Romain Saiss and Leo Bonatini – extending their lead at the top of the Sky Bet Championship table.

The initiative marks continued support by Sky Bet for the RBL, which has raised more than £300,000 over the past four seasons, thanks to fans and English Football League (EFL) clubs.

### Support

Sky Bet spokesman Sandro Di Michele said: "The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal is a cause we've worked closely with for nearly four years and we're always impressed by the swell of support we see from EFL clubs and their fans.

"To be in a position where we can raise a huge amount of money for such a worthwhile cause and pay our respects to those who have served our country is an honour."

RBL's Ben France said: "We're grateful to Sky Bet for supporting the Legion through the shirt auctions and to the football league community who each year dig deep and donate to the Poppy Appeal. The Legion's work is made possible thanks to the public's generous support."

Football shirts from other Championship clubs will also be sold. Visit www.charitystars.com/collection/wolverhampton-wanderers-fc

# Shock as crimes figures show rise of 14 per cent

**CRIME has soared in the West Midlands with sharp rises in murder, domestic burglaries and sexual offences, figures reveal.**

West Midlands Police recorded 221,774 crimes in the year ending September 2017 – a rise of 14 per cent from the previous 12 months.

The force dealt with 44 murders over the year, up 25pc. There were 17,770 domestic burglaries, up 37 pc, 6,750 robberies, up 27pc, and 5,707 sex offences, a rise of 23pc.

Assistant chief constable Alex Murray said: "We understand people's concerns around the rise in crime, and the impact it can have on the quality of life of those who live and work in the West Midlands.

"We are prioritising the crimes that cause the greatest harm to communities. We're targeting gun crime and last year took 144 firearms, which we believe were linked to criminals, off the streets, while disrupting organised crime through extra patrols."

### Resources

West Midlands police and crime commissioner, David Jamieson, said officers were battling against a lack of resources.

"The pressure on our officers is enormous," he said. "Incidents that could cause harm to life are given priority, while crimes that may impact local communities do not always get the attention they should.

"The force has lost £145 million from central government since 2010. Despite being a highly efficient force, we have still lost 2,000 officers since 2010."

West Midlands UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge said: "These figures are extraordinarily bad and are brought about by funding cuts from this government."

Other spikes in recorded crime include vehicle offences. There were 35,671, up 32pc – the biggest increase for any police force. Across England and Wales, crime went up by 15 per cent, according to the figures released by the Office for National Statistics.

● Fewer officers – Page ....???

## Richard defies gravity – and cost

Richard's message is that fitness doesn't mean fancy, expensive equipment

A FATHER who claims to be one of the strongest men in the country wants to give others the message that fitness doesn't mean fancy, expensive equipment.

Richard Blakeway, 37, from Parkfield in Wolverhampton, is an expert in callisthenics, a method using the athlete's own body weight – and nothing else – to get fit. The father-of-one, who works at Aldi, believes it is 'the next big thing' and a sure way for people looking to lose weight, build strength, or just start a new hobby.

He has recently started competing in various freestyle callisthenics competitions, but at the latest contest broke his leg doing a back flip off a pull-up bar – he was just one step away from the final.

Richard said: "I only started training two years ago. I went to the gym first but found it so boring. But then I just did a handstand and got a bit of a thrill, so I kept on going. I'm all self-taught."

# Drivers hit by delays in latest roadworks

COMMUTERS have been hit by delays after a new batch of roadworks got under way in Wolverhampton.

The scheme, at the junction of Wolverhampton Road and Wednesfield Way, has caused long tailbacks. The project runs 24 hours a day and three-way temporary traffic lights have been installed.

The work is part of a council scheme to improve traffic lights at the busy junction near New Cross Hospital. It is due to end on February 23.

### Concerned

Temporary traffic lights are in place around the Wolverhampton Road, Wednesfield Way and Deans Road junction, while there is no access from Wolverhampton Road and Church Street onto Wednesfield Way.

The city's Conservative group leader Wendy Thompson has called for the roadworks to be completed as quickly as possible.

Councillor Thompson said she was 'concerned for businesses and their costs' and described the work as 'immensely frustrating for commuters'.

Cabinet member Milkinder Jaspal said the work was much-needed and has urged motorists to be patient. He insisted that it was being carried out to improve traffic flow at the junction.

# Grand in running for seven awards

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Grand Theatre has been nominated for a record seven prizes in the What's On Reader's Awards.

Last year, it won best Midlands pantomime for Aladdin 2016/17 and best Wolverhampton arts/theatre venue.

This year it has been nominated for best large theatre in the Midlands, best home-produced show – for Brassed Off, best Midlands pantomime 2017/18 – Jack and the Beanstalk, and best Midlands pantomime dame – Ian Adams.

It has also been nominated for best amateur dramatic production – Bilston Operatic Company's A Christmas Carol, best Wolverhampton arts/theatre venue and best classical/operatic production – Birmingham Bach Choir At The Grand Theatre – Handel's Messiah.

# Trust number swap

A HOSPITAL trust 24-hour switchboard number will be taken off line for system maintenance. From 2-6am on Sunday the two numbers to replace the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust's 01902 307999 switchboard number will be 01902 442738 and 01902 442736.

Enoch Powell

# Blue plaque for Enoch is mooted

A BLUE plaque to honour Enoch Powell could be erected in Wolverhampton.

The city's Civic and Historical Society confirmed they have received an application. The plaque would commemorate the life of the former Wolverhampton South West MP, renowned for his Rivers of Blood speech.

It is on a list of around 35 potential plaques and will be discussed by the society's six-strong panel once the unnamed applicant has raised the £1,000 necessary to fund its creation.

### Feasible

Blue plaques secretary Barry Hodgson said: "It is perfectly feasible that we will see a blue plaque for Enoch Powell at some time in the future.

"The possibility was first raised two or three years ago and was recently revived. Once the financial issues have been dealt with I will present the case to the committee and we will discuss it at length. It is more of a sensitive issue than we usually deal with, so there will obviously be concerns over where in the city it would be placed to keep it away from vandals.

The possibility of a plaque for Powell was discussed at Saturday's E&S debate on the Rivers of Blood speech and a poll by the paper has revealed 70 per cent of readers backed the plan

# Freeze the council expenses – panel

COUNCILLORS in Wolverhampton should not receive increases in travelling expenses or special responsibility allowances for the next three years, an independent panel has advised.

But they can give themselves an increase in their basic £9,181 allowance at the same rate as any rise paid to council workers.

The Independent Remuneration Panel, which is chaired by Reverend David Wright, of St Peter's Church, is made up of members of the community.

A report to full council describes the current basic allowance as 'reasonable' although notes it is slightly lower than comparison groups. Councillors will vote on the recommendations at a meeting this week.

# Revamp threatened to crush Civic Hall

A MAJOR overhaul of Wolverhampton's Civic halls was put on hold after engineers discovered refurbishment works would crush the venue's foundations.

Structural investigations carried out after restoration work had begun revealed the building would be damaged, and designs had to be re-drawn.

It comes after Wolverhampton Council confirmed the Civic halls will stay shut until 2020 and an extra £23 million is needed to complete.

Councillors were expected to approve the additional cash at a full council meeting this week. A report to the council read: "The most significant issue was that the exposure of the foundations during the enabling works, identified that the existing structure could not hold the weight of the refurbished building as originally proposed.

"Thus, the scheme needed to be redesigned to reduce the weight on the foundations."

The revamp – which will see extra seating across new balconies, improved and new bar and hospitality areas, ventilation, lifts and better access to the Wulfrun Hall – was originally due to cost £14.4 million.

Council bosses said the extra £23.6 million would come mainly from 'the sale of surplus council land and buildings'. But it means major events booked at the Civic halls, including Jason Mansford and Sarah Millican, will not go-ahead there as the venue will remain closed.

A council spokesman said: "The heating and ventilation proposals for the scheme have been significantly upgraded since the original project was started."

Civic halls will stay closed until 2020

# Knifeman in threat to kill paramedic

**A DRUNK knifeman threatened paramedics – leaving one trainee so scared she locked herself in the back of an ambulance.**

Bradley Gourley armed himself with a large kitchen knife after the crew were called to his home late at night on a 111 call, Exeter Crown Court heard.

He was drunk and agitated when the paramedics arrived and became even more violent when his mother tried to calm him down.

Gourley, aged 24, of Wood End Road, Wednesfield, went into the street armed with the knife after a dog that he was looking after ran away and he blamed the ambulance crew for letting it escape. He brandished the knife in the face of one paramedic and told him he would kill him unless he found the animal.

Judge David Evans told him: "When the dog got out your reaction was irrational, bizarre and excessive. You picked up a kitchen knife and went right in the face of the paramedic.

### Fearful

"You held the knife at his head so close and so aggressively that a student who was with the crew was so fearful she got into the ambulance and locked the doors. You have come within a hair's breadth of imprisonment."

Miss Kelly Scrivener, defending, said Gourley was staying at a friend's house in Briseham Road, Brixham, and looking after his dog when the ambulance was called on July 15 last year.

The crew found he was drunk and upset but he became violent after his mother attended and the crew withdrew to the street to leave them together. Gourley became angry when the animal escaped and threatened the crew with the knife, which he put back in the kitchen before police arrived.

Mr Barry White, for Gourley, suffered from physical and mental after-effects of abuse and found the events of the night hugely stressful. Gourley admitted making threats with a knife and was jailed for eight months, suspended for 18 months. He was also given a 28-day curfew, ordered to undergo alcohol treatment and do 30 days rehabilitation activities.

Beverley Knight singing at the service

# Star Bev's musical tribute to Cyrille

WOLVERHAMPTON soul star Beverley Knight paid her own moving tribute to Cyrille Regis.

"His legacy is so seismic because there was no-one like him at the time."

Beverley, from Wolverhampton performed a solo version of gospel classic 'Going Up Yonder' at a celebration of Cyrille's life at the service at The Hawthorns.

### Honoured

Despite being a Wolves fan, Beverley said she could not help but be inspired by the performances of Cyrille and his fellow Three Degrees, Brendon Batson and Laurie Cunningham.

And the songstress has said she was honoured to be invited to perform at the service at the ground Cyrille viewed as home turf.

Beverley said: "I didn't know Cyrille really well but as a young child growing up I saw him on the TV all the time playing for the Albion."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### City MP opposes transit site plan

A LABOUR MP has written to a neighbouring council leader to oppose 'controversial' plans for a temporary travellers transit site.

Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden has sent a letter to Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley opposing proposals to build the site in Budden Road, Coseley.

It comes as it was revealed the move could see around 30 people from nearby business Commercial Body Fittings Ltd lose their jobs – which Mr McFadden described as 'far too high a price to pay'. In a letter Mr McFadden said: "I believe Budden Road is the wrong location."

### Flood rescue of stranded driver

A STRANDED driver was rescued by emergency services after his car became stuck in flood water.

Firefighters were called to the scene in Greenfield Lane, Wolverhampton, just before noon on Monday.

They found an elderly man trapped in a Mercedes under the railway bridge in the Fordhouses area of the city.

Wading through two and a half feet of water, they rescued the motorist before winching his car to dry land. Engineers from Severn Trent Water were called to investigate.

### New retirement homes unveiled

A RETIREMENT development has officially opened its doors. McCarthy and Stone's Clock Gardens on Stockwell Road in Tettenhall has now opened to the public.

Guests took a tour of the fully-furnished show apartment. The development is designed for over-55s and features 22 apartments.

The management scheme service includes 24-hour fire and security monitoring, security gates, building insurance, security lighting, private parking and maintenance for the communal areas.

### Coach house to make way for nursery build

A FORMER coach house is set to be demolished to make way for a nursery extension after plans were given the go-ahead.

Wolverhampton's Penn Kids Day Nursery will be extended to create space for an extra 40 children aged three and four.

An old coach house, in Woodfield Avenue, will be knocked down and transformed into a car park. The plan will create four full-time posts.


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## COUNTY NEWS

### Flu vaccine for Australian strain

HEALTH experts have insisted it is not too late to get vaccinated against Aussie flu, amid a rise in UK cases.

Dr Helen Hibbs, from the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, said the jab had proved effective against the strain of flu – and said people should take measures to protect themselves. Aussie flu has made headlines in recent weeks following reports of cases across the country.

Dr Hibbs said: "This particularly nasty strain of flu shows just how severe flu can be. The good news is that the flu vaccine is effective against the Australian flu and it is still not too late for people to get protected."

### University signs up for project

A MIDLANDS university has signed up to a Government initiative aimed at getting young people from poorer backgrounds into higher education.

Newman University in Birmingham is part of the National Collaborative Outreach Project (NCOP), which is tasked with increasing numbers at university from disadvantaged families.

The university has a dedicated NCOP team who work with schools and colleges in the area.

Former Newman student Lewis Hickman, from Bartley Green, returned to the university to work on the project.

### Mecca marking Macarena's 25th

BINGO lovers are being called on to pull their best 90s dance moves.

Bilston's Mecca is looking for people to flaunt their moves to throwback hit Macarena for the chance to grab a £1,000 holiday. It comes as the bingo hall, based at Spring Vale Retail Park, celebrates 25 years of Los Del Rio's one-hit wonder.

Dance videos need to be uploaded to the Bilston branch's Facebook on Friday and Saturday. For more information, call 01902 405065.

### Home unveils its £2m extension

A CARE home has unveiled is new £2 million extension. Beech Hill Grange, in Sutton Coldfield, provides nursing and dementia care.

The service has now doubled its footprint with the expansion, increasing its capacity to 75 rooms.

The extension also includes a new piano lounge and sitting room. There is also a private dining room and a hair salon.

## After latest cases, grieving father says 'enough is enough'

Victim – Georgie Evans

Victim – John Hickinbottom

Banned driver Craig Edwards

Cyclist death – Kade Scrivens

Rebecca McManus was killed

# Killer drivers 'must face tougher action'

**'WE have to go back to the drawing board' – the father of a student killed by a speeding motorists has called for tougher sentences.**

Gez McManus's 21-year-old daughter Rebecca was waiting at a bus stop when Sukvinder Mannan, who was driving at 101mph, hit and killed her.

The fatal crash in Hagley Road West in Bearwood resulted in 34-year-old Mannan, from Halesowen, being jailed for eight years after admitting causing death by dangerous driving.

The sentence four years ago has been followed by several other death by dangerous driving convictions – none of which have resulted in the maximum 14-year sentence.

Last week Craig Edwards and Kade Scrivens were jailed for less than eight years each for killing behind the wheel.

### Roundabout

Edwards was driving at a speed almost twice the 30 mph limit when he hit grandfather John Hickinbottom in Walsall last June. He was also over the drink drive limit. The 29-year-old, of Cumberland Road, Walsall, received a seven-year jail sentence after admitting causing death by dangerous driving, failing to stop at the scene and drink driving.

Meanwhile Mr Hickinbottom's family who were in court to watch the proceedings, must attempt to move on without the 74-year-old, of Lilac Grove, Bentley. Granddaughter Jade told the court: "It felt like my world was falling apart without him."

And on the same day of the sentencing, Scrivens, 24, of Booth Street, Handsworth, was given a seven-and-a-half year sentence for killing 59-year-old Nicholas Harrison. He was cycling on Midland Road in Darlaston when Scrivens lost control at a roundabout while speeding and hit him on the opposite side of the road on November 22. Scrivens, who admitted causing death by dangerous driving, then fled the scene to sober up, according to Judge Simon Ward.

Gez McManus lost his daughter when she was hit by a speeding driver

In a victim impact statement read out in court, Mr Harrison's brother, Christopher, 70, said his death 'has affected me greatly'. The two cases have triggered a campaign by the Express & Star for tougher sentences on killer drivers. It has been supported Mr McManus, 54, of Balsall Common.

He is campaigning for killer drivers to be banned from the roads for life.

He also says judges should be stricter with their sentences and people need to be educated on the dangers of driving dangerously. The Ministry of Justice is proposing for the maximum sentence for causing death by dangerous driving to go up from 14 years' prison to life. But the plan has yet to go before Parliament.

Mr McManus said: "Mr Mannan will get his freedom shortly and be in his early 30s, he will still have a long life ahead of him. He should not be allowed to go behind the wheel again.

"The problem we have is by the time the case gets to the court it is too late, someone has died. People who view it as socially acceptable need to realise it is socially unacceptable."

Mr McManus is starting a charity called Collision and Reducing Death on our Roads. He aims to reach out to young drivers, encouraging them to drive safely. Eddie Hughes, Walsall North MP, says he will raise the issue in Parliament. He said: Tougher sentences need to be put out."

The latest person to back it is Richard Evans, whose daughter Georgie Evans, a former pupil of Kinver High School, died when her car was hit by an Audi A6 driven by Kuba Ole.

The Polish inmigrant was driving too fast along Priory Road in Dudley when it happened, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 24-year-old, of Beaconview Road, West Bromwich, fled the scene. He was finally caught and jailed for six years, after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving.

The parents of Miss Evans, from Himley, could not attend the court hearing as they were still too upset, following the crash on October 27. But this week, Mr Evans said: "We lost our daughter 27th October 2016 on Priory Road, Dudley, due to driver speeding at nearly 100mph in a 30mph zone.

### Force

"He struck her car with such force it tore it in half. She hadn't a prayer.

"The driver then made off from the scene and handed himself in 18 hours later - he was sentenced to six years imprisonment and probably will be out in four. We are paying the ultimate sentence. Enough is enough."

The crash happened on October 27, at the junction of Cedar Road.

Hospital porter Joshua Harvey, 23, was jailed for two years after admitting causing the death of Sean Williams in Wolverhampton by careless driving. Harvey, of Griffiths Drive, Ashmore Park, was undercutting when the car he was driving at 48mph in a 30 zone in Lakefield Road, Wednesfield, hit the boy.

Figures from the Department of Transport show 54 people died on the roads in the West Midlands in the 12 months up to October 27.

## Campaign launched for longer sentences

The anti-speeding campaign logo

TWO killer drivers who callously left their victims for dead have each been jailed for under eight years, prompting a campaign calling for action.

Banned driver Craig Edwards was locked up for seven years for killing grandfather John Hickinbottom. He lost control of his vehicle and mounted the pavement, knocking down the 74-year-old.

Speeding motorist Kade Scrivens was sentenced to seven and a half years for hitting cyclist Nicholas Harrison. Scrivens was speeding and driving on the wrong side of the road.

Both sentences have been criticised by road safety campaigner Gez McManus and Walsall North MP Eddie Hughes, who is to raise the matter in Parliament. In the meantime the Chronicle's sister newspaper – the Express & Star – has set up a petition

Mr McManus, whose 21-year-old daughter Rebecca was killed by a speeding driver in Bearwood four years ago, said: "Enough is enough.

"Something needs to change to stop people getting behind the wheel and driving so dangerously, causing misery to the families of the innocent people killed. If the sentences are not long enough, people will fail to take notice. We have to go back to the drawing board." The two cases were heard before Wolverhampton Crown Court this week.

Meanwhile, launching the campaign, Express & Star editor, Keith Harrison said: "The crime of dangerous driving should be urgently addressed by our lawmakers.

"While the death toll grows, time and time again we see people who are found guilty of this offence handed sentences that are pathetic.

"Government legislation designed to tackle dangerous driving is slowly moving forward, although it is likely to be a while before anything meaningful enters the statute books.

"We need action now. Today the Express & Star and Chronicle are calling on people to sign our petition.

Where is the justice for the victims and their families?"

● To sign the petition visit expressandstar.com

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# Accountants to face a probe over Carillion

THE accountancy watchdog is to open an investigation into accountancy giant KPMG over its audits of collapsed construction giant Carillion.

The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) said that, following inquiries made since Carillion's profit warning in July, it will open an investigation under the Audit Enforcement Procedure.

The probe will cover the years ended 2014, 2015 and 2016, and additional audit work carried out during 2017.

The investigation will be conducted by the FRC's Enforcement Division and will consider whether the auditor has breached any relevant requirements, in particular the "ethical and technical standards" for auditors.

KPMG's audit of the Wolverhampton-based company's use and disclosure of the going concern basis of accounting, estimates and recognition of revenue on significant contracts and accounting for pensions will all come under the FRC's microscope.

The FRC also pledged to conduct the investigation "as quickly and thoroughly as possible".

"The FRC is progressing with urgent inquiries into the conduct of professional accountants within Carillion in connection with the preparation of the financial statements and other financial reporting obligations under the Accountancy Scheme.

# Putting focus on lifelong learning

LIFELONG learning will be at the heart of a university conference.

The University of Wolverhampton will bring together leading education professionals to discuss learning within society.

It has been organised by Professor Sir Alan Tuckett, who was recognised in this year's New Year's Honours for his work in developing further education.

Sir Alan said: "Adult learning has suffered a series of setbacks in recent years, with major losses of numbers participating in further and community provision and a half of mature students lost from higher education.

The event is in The Chancellor's Hall from 10am until 4pm on Friday, February 16.

# Plan to house six

A LARGE residential property will be converted into a home for six people, under plans lodged.

The planning application sent to Wolverhampton council is for 200 Bushbury Road.

# Gift for Santa – £6k to fix his sleigh

The sleigh going round the city

SANTA will be sledging around Wolverhampton in style for Christmas 2018, after receiving a sum of £6,750 to have his tattered sleigh rebuilt.

Tettenhall Rotary Club organises for Father Christmas to parade around the city every December, delighting children and adults with gifts and greetings.

But after 15 years of hard service, the future of Santa's visits were recently cast into doubt as his sleigh started crumbling. It needs a new galvanised chassis for safe towing, a more environmentally friendly and quieter generator, a new sound system, and new wheels – a total cost of about £8,000.

Rotary members applied to the Aviva Community Fund scheme at the end of last year and were overjoyed to discover they had been voted by members of the public and judges to win a £4,000 grant.

They also received a generous sum of £2,750 from the James Beattie Trust in Wolverhampton, via another funding application.

Rotary club president Roger Webb said Christmas had come early, thanks to the news of thefunding, which would allow the sleigh to be rebuilt ready for Christmas 2018.

Mr Webb said: "We are absolutely delighted that we got this. It does mean now we can go ahead and rebuild the sleigh by the end of this year. "

The group now just needs the final £1,250 but is starting work immediately.

At least half the collection goes to Tettenhall's Compton Hospice and the rest to deserving organisations in and around the city.

# Butler is jailed after dodging speed fines

**A BUTLER who 'cynically and persistently' dodged 14 speeding tickets has been jailed for 11 months.**

Nathan McIntosh, aged 33, was regularly caught travelling too fast in his Range Rover Vogue and realised he would lose his job if banned from driving.

So he created a man called Simon Atkinson who allegedly lived in St Anne's Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

When McIntosh received a notice of intent to prosecute him for speeding as the registered owner of the car. He claimed that the non- existent Mr Atkinson was driving when the offence was committed. "Speed cameras were triggered throughout the country by the defendant but primarily in the West Midlands," said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

## Worst

In the worst of the 14 offences blamed on Mr 'Atkinson' during the year to September 2016, the Range Rover was caught doing 84 mph in a 50 limit. On another it was doing 83 in a 50 zone. The rest involved travelling at between 10 and 20mph above the limit, said Mr Searle.

Officials launched an investigation after it was spotted that the same name and address was used for fines that were never paid. Checks revealed that nobody with the name of Simon Atkinson had ever lived in St Anne's Road and inquiries disclosed McIntosh had often been working in the same area as the speed camera when the offences were committed.

Forensic checks proved some of the documents returned to the authorities with false information had his fingerprints on them. By the time the defendant reached court he was banned from driving after coming clean and admitting two other speeding offences.

Mr David Isles, defending, commented: "His work as a butler required his presence in different parts of the country. He had limited time to get there and drove faster than he should."

McIntosh, from Laburnum Street, Graiseley, who is on licence from prison after firing a gun in the street, admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice. He was also banned from driving for four years.

# Hugh's joy at early Sportive boost

Lisa Bockhoefer from Compton Hospice with Hugh Porter and Marston's MD Richard Westwood

CYCLING legend Hugh Porter has urged people to sign up to this year's Banks's Round the Wrekin Sportive.

Early entries have already topped last year's total at the same stage. But Hugh has urged people to continue to sign up to reach his 'ambition' of 1,000 riders taking part. Last year's event raised a total of £28,000 for Compton Hospice. Hugh said: "We got 740 doing it last year. I have a big ambition to reach the magic 1,000.

"At the end of January last year we had 98 entered, and in the first year we had 61. This year we've already got 156 entered.

"That's pretty good going and the early indications are that the event is getting bigger."

The event takes place on May 20 and there are three distances for riders to complete. To sign up or for details go to www.roundthewrekin.co.uk or visit the 'sportifs' page on British Cycling's website.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lock firm plans for new centre

A PROPOSAL for a new innovation centre at one of the Black Country's most historic lock firms is set to be approved.

The scheme is part of Assa Abloy's £3 million revamp of its headquarters at School Street, Willenhall. The new 3,617 sq ft. building would be used to showcase some of the firm's digital products and would also provide extra space for research and development.

It will be go before Walsall Council's planning committee this week. Officers have recommended the application be approved.

Assa Abloy has been based at Willenhall since 1946.

### Date now set for 'Foz' memorial

A MEMORIAL service to celebrate the life of Wolves employee John 'Foz' Hendley is to be held next week.

The service in honour of Foz's life and contribution to the club is at St Peter's Collegiate Church on Thursday (8). Foz was affiliated with the club in a variety of roles for decades.

He officially joined Wolves in 1999 and worked with the club's media team including on the matchday programme. Many supporters will remember him from videos the club produced in the 1990s. Tributes flooded in after Foz's death aged 67.

### Homes plan for social club site

A SOCIAL club would be demolished to make way for homes and changing rooms, under new plans.

Proposals for the revamp on the site of Springvale Sports and Social Club in Bilston have gone to Wolverhampton Council.

The scheme would see the social club knocked down and replaced with a changing room and clubhouse for the existing sports fields and pitches. Bowling greens will be retained while the cricket and football pitches will be repositioned. Eight homes and a nursery would also be built.

### Marathon challenge for animal lovers

FUNDRAISERS across the Black Country are being called on to put their best foot forward for sick pets.

Charity PDSA needs people to help raise cash by taking on the Virgin Money London Marathon.

It is looking for its 'biggest ever team of animal loving runners' to sign up for the challenge to celebrate its centenary. The London Marathon is set to take place on April 22.

See pdsa.org.uk/london-marathon

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

# Rich list? That could refer to me – and you

A STUDY by Oxfam, which claims that the richest one per cent of the world owns 82 per cent of the world's resources, has sparked a predictable outcry on social media.

"The greedy rich should pay more tax to help the poor and downtrodden" seems to be the upshot of it, and certainly when confronted with such stark figures it seems hard to disagree.

I do wonder, though, whether the professional malcontents busy working themselves into such a fury have actually paused to think about just who the richest one per cent of the population are.

No doubt images of Sir Philip Green, polishing his medallion while soaking up the sun on his private yacht, spring to mind. Or perhaps Sir Richard Branson on his private island, and a grouchy Lord Sugar barking orders at his underlings from his raised chair in the boardroom.

And of course, no list of wealthy pantomime villains would be complete without special mention of Rupert Murdoch, who seems to be to blame for most things these days.

And yes, all of these fall into the richest one per cent, but they are not alone. According to the Global Rich List, which defines such things, anybody earning more than £22,706 a year is in the richest one per cent. I wonder how many of the people angrily pointing the finger at the "greedy rich" realise that they too are members of that exclusive club?

More to the point, how many of these members of the richest one per cent, particularly those who work in the public sector, have been on protest marches demanding an end to "austerity", and an inflation-busting pay rise?

If the Oxfam report tells us anything, it is that most people in this country are pretty well-off, and maybe a little less moaning wouldn't go amiss when there are so many people in the world who really do have something to complain about.

By the way, the chief executive of Oxfam earned £127,753 last year.

❒❒❒

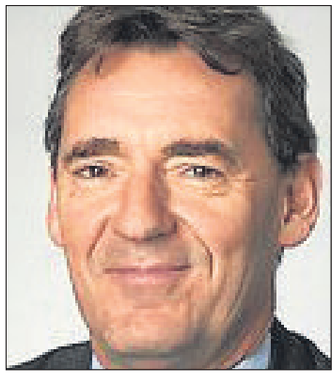
INTERESTINGLY, the Oxfam report also coincides with a new report by the Rowntree Foundation which says more than half of children in London and Birmingham are living in poverty.

The study defines poverty as having an income, after housing costs, of less than £248 a week, which is a little confusing.

Given the stratospheric cost of housing at the moment, particularly in London, how many of these supposedly impoverished households are also in the richest one per cent of the world?

## Clapping at end of Churchill film – and why not?

Gary Oldham as Winston Churchill in the film Darkest Hour



Lord Jim O'Neill now believes booming global trade will "dwarf" Brexit ill effects

Prince William 'laughed off' suggestions he paid £180 for his new shaven-headed look

# Patriotic nation is entitled to applaud

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A READER contacts me with yet another report of a cinema audience applauding at the end of Darkest Hour starring Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill. I'm not surprised. These are self-selecting audiences with a pro-Churchill bias and, having heard of the reactions elsewhere, they are primed to clap.

BUT there's surely more to it than that. Britain is just about the only European country proud of its part in the 20th century. And despite half-a-century of post-imperial breast-beating and institutionalised shame, we are, in the main, a patriotic and sentimental nation. We saved the world. We are entitled to clap a little.

JUST as global warming may be cooled by a coming mini-ice age, so Brexit may be mollified by a general improvement in world trade. So says the former treasury minister and Remainer Lord Jim O'Neill. He now believes that booming global trade will "dwarf" any ill effects caused by leaving the EU. In other words, after all the froth and fury, we may hardly notice any difference. The millennium bug revisited.

PRINCE William has 'laughed off' suggestions that he paid £180 for his new shaven-headed look. This is only a theory but I'd be surprised if he paid anything. His wife's hair stylist apparently went to Kensington Palace to give HRH the razor-cut treatment. The stylist is probably well-pleased with all the publicity and would not dream of sending a bill.

IN case William is remotely interested, in real life, for a Number 3 cut which is not quite so brutal as his, I pay £5 (admittedly with the Nearer My God To Thee discount).

SOCIAL media ought to come with a warning: "Signing up to this will ruin your entire life." Latest victim is Amena Khan, L'Oreal's hijab-wearing model who has resigned after somebody uncovered anti-Israel tweets she posted three years ago. How long will it be before nobody on social media will be able to do anything in the public eye because of their hasty opinions of yore?

A FORMER SAS soldier who took part in the 1980 Iranian Embassy siege is homeless and unable to get a council house. In contrast, one of the embassy terrorists, released from jail after 28 years, is said to be living rent-free in London. Surprised? Me neither. It is 100 years since the prime minister Lloyd George promised "homes fit for heroes." It was a lie then and it's a lie now.

THE Church of England is a broad church with half a millennium's worth of prayers and liturgy to cover every aspect of human life. This probably explains why its House of Bishops has decided there's no need to create a new form of service to welcome transgender worshippers; the baptismal service can be adapted. But I bet the bishops considered not only the theology but the maths. According to official statistics, no more than six out of every 1,000 Brits are transgender. No more than 20 in every 1,000 Brits are regular churchgoers. So the number of transgender people wanting a new form of service is vanishingly small, especially when you divide it among England's 10,449 church parishes. And yet who would put money on the bishops' decision being the end of it? The campaigning group OneBodyOneFaith has already accused the bishops of "kicking trans people into the long grass" and the lesson of the Church's recent history is that once it is accused of kicking anybody, the only option is a meek apology and surrender.

OUR changing language. According to police, a gang of violent burglars in the Black Country "scope areas for homes that could be potential targets." Scope? The trouble with this word is not that it means nothing but that it can mean several things. You can scope a property using binoculars but you can also scope it through online research. Joe Public, on being warned of "scoping," may start keeping an eye peeled for dodgy-looking blokes with field glasses when he should be removing images of his possessions from Facebook.

MIND you, if I were in charge, burglary would vanish overnight. This is because I'd have serial burglars taken into a field and shot. Why? Because they are the lowest of the low. They are worse than most murderers (who usually kill in a moment of passion) and worse than many paedophiles (who clearly have mental problems). What is more, there is hard evidence that serial burglars kill people. Home Office figures show that old people who have been burgled are much more likely to die sooner than others of similar age. At best, being burgled causes long-lasting trauma. At worst, it shortens your life. Yet police forces everywhere increasingly treat it as a minor crime and when I suggest executing serial burglars, people think I'm joking. Absolutely not.

TALKING POINT

# Cashing in on the sick with fines for parking

PARKING fines and charges have been in the news lately. Recently, The Chronicle revealed that hospital trusts were making thousands from charging staff and visitors to park, with Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, for example, raking in £1.1m.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust made £2.4m and Dudley Group NHS Trust profited to the tune of £471,000, although most of that revenue was taken by a private finance initiative firm.

Add the £2.3m made by the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and you can see why the chief executive of the Patients' Association Rachel Power claims the charges equate to being penalised for being ill.

Spare a thought in particular for the heroic, overworked and under-paid employees within our crumbling NHS, who deserve a bigger wage packet, yet find most of their already hard-earned cash spent on the privilege of going to work and potentially saving someone else's life.

Away from hospitals, it was reported that, to Walsall Council alone, more than £1,000 a day was being paid every day in parking penalties.

One Liberal Democrat campaigner said drivers were being treated as cash cows. And, after an experience that happened to myself, I can only concur.

You see, I was given a penalty charge notice half an hour before my time in a car park had elapsed.

How can this be? It appears that our 'crime' was to top-up the two hours we had already paid for, thus spending more than the allocated time in said car park. I have paid the fine – £25, but doubling to a barely affordable £50 if not settled within 14 days. But I have also exercised our right to appeal.

It does beg the question of how many other unsuspecting motorists – simply in the wrong place at the wrong time – have been caught this way. On only our second visit to the town in question, we were oblivious to the regulations and not aware of any advisory signs, so hopefully common sense will prevail.

However, it is galling that there are people out there who knowingly disregard the law and even ignore any punishment that comes their way.

Campaigners claim payments are just another way of making money from hard-working people, while authorities argue that income generated from parking fines is ploughed back into our highways and making them safer.

Judging by the number of potholes still on our roads – even after The Chronicle's extensive campaign – one could argue otherwise.

MARK SHIPP

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# Eleven schools named as 'under-performers'

## So close you could touch it

The pub's own Wolf mascot and Bash Chambelain eye up the trophy

WOLVES fans at a city centre pub got up close and personal with the EFL Championship trophy that the club are on course to regain.

Supporters young and old rubbed shoulders with the silverware at the George Wallis, Victoria Street, and took selfies and photographs.

The pub is a popular stomping ground for the Wolves faithful on match-days and is less than a mile away from Molineux. Competition sponsors Sky Bet brought along the trophy on a whistlestop tour of venues across the UK. Pub mascot George the Wolf was also on hand to entertain the crowd.

Wolves stand top of the pile in the Championship and are on course to win the re-branded title for a second time, the last eight years ago in 2009.

**ELEVEN secondary schools across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Wyre Forest are under-performing, figures show.**

The schools – including two in Wolverhampton – are deemed to have fallen below the Government's performance threshold in 2017.

This means pupils are failing to make enough progress across eight subjects, particularly in English and maths, according to the Department for Education.

The list of schools includes Norton Canes High School, The Holly Hall Academy in Dudley, Holy Trinity School in Kidderminster, the ACE Academy in Tipton, Walsall Studio School and Brownhills Schools.

### Changes

Wodensborough Ormiston Academy in Wednesbury, Health Futures UTC in West Bromwich, Willenhall E-ACT Academy, Wednesfield High Specialist Engineering Academy and West Midlands Construction UTC in Wolverhampton have all also been highlighted.

The figures show that nationally about one in 12 children, a total of 260,783, are now being taught at under-performing secondaries, a rise from 206,991 in 2016.

The increase comes amid major changes to England's exams system, including a new grading system, which has meant the data includes English and maths GCSE results, with 9 to 1 scores, while other subjects received traditional A* to G grades. School leaders said the new system affecting English and maths had complicated the way school performance is calculated.

Geoff Barton, general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), said: "As the DfE itself says, these changes are the main reason why there has been an increase in the number of schools which are deemed to be below the 'floor standard' for Progress 8."

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# Trump would be welcome here

DEMOCRACY, stated Sir Winston Churchill, can be viewed as a lousy form of government, until you compare it to the rest. Likewise, President Donald Trump.

He is far from perfect. However, no-one can deny he says exactly what he thinks and believes in the interests of America, and the American people who voted for him.

I find his lack of guile and maverick inclinations, refreshing. Together with his obvious incapability of emulating the oily, smooth duplicitousness of many professional politicians. His choice of words on occasions leave much to be desired, but the message contained resonates with many.

And let's face it, his loyalty lies with them and not with his liberal leaning critics. I kinda wish that we 'blue collar', 'poorly educated' English people had our own 'Donald', to represent our views.

As an Englishman, and a Christian, when it comes to trusting someone to look after my interests, give me a Trump any day. I say the US President is welcome here.

**JOHN REED**
Wolverhampton

# How plastics head for sea

THE letter from Mr Whitehouse concerned the problem of plastics in our oceans. He asked how plastics from our area can find its way to the sea; I can explain.

As a keen river angler for more than 60 years, I can tell you, it is because of the amount of plastic, etc, that is thrown down the river banks, some by anglers, but a lot by the general public.

Look at places on our rivers popular with the public, Stourport, Bewdley, Ironbridge, Evesham, Hereford, etc, I've fished there and seen the garbage thrown into the undergrowth.

The winter comes, the undergrowth dies back exposing it to the inevitable floods that wash it into the main flow, next stop, the sea. If you add to this our canals, it is easy for a plastic bottle thrown into the canal at Wolverhampton to end up in the Bristol Channel via the River Severn.

**RON EMERY**
Bilston

# National Service is the answer

WE know we have a serious problem in this country, a lack of discipline, starting in our schools through everyday life, and yet it never used to be like that.

In June 1952, at the age of 19, I was ordered to catch the morning train to Carlisle to commence two years of National Service, it felt that my life lay in ruins for I had been offered a trial at Wolverhampton Speedway.

After eight weeks of square bashing, rifle drill, trade training and many fatigues I was posted to Germany to join my given regiment The Life Guards, Household Cavalry, a trained and disciplined soldier, putting everything aside to enjoy two years of a great life.

I am convinced that the reintroduction of National Service, if only for 12 months, would help bring together different races and creeds teaching them the most important thing in life which is personal discipline.

**MR D BODLEY**
Bilbrook

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**POST**
Wolverhampton Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

**EMAIL**
wolverhampton.chronicles@expressandstar.co.uk

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# Remainers must work together to make our Britain great again

MR Harrison writes in the paper that people who voted to leave the EU may not have understood what they were voting for. Well it was, as far as I can remember, a fairly straightforward choice. That choice being to stay in the EU or leave it. What's difficult about that?

He also claims that British university qualifications will no longer be recognised in the EU. I admit that I personally do not know everything but this is the first time I've heard this one. It's a bit like saying the bogeyman will get you if you don't watch out. I haven't seen any threats from EU employees or officials saying this but I may be wrong.

Let's get it straight, the EU will huff and puff but they won't be erecting huge trade tariffs against our exports to there. They can't afford to. The result of that would be trade tariffs against their exports. Do the French and Germans want to risk that? Of course not.

My advice to remainers is grow up and accept the decision, stop your scaremongering and work to make this country great again.

**M GOUGH CPTC**
Wombourne

# It's time to put a stop to this Foreign aid travesty

WHEN I was a child in the 50s, one of the regular features of church was to hand over a small cardboard church moneybox in which we put small amounts of change.

The money from this missionary box, as it was known, would be collected up and amalgamated with monies from other churches and would eventually, so we were told, on a national basis, find its way to the poor of Africa, contributing to building wells, schools, houses and so on, thereby lifting the people out of dire straits and enabling them to become capable of supporting themselves in the long-term.

Fast forward 60 years, and I find that more countries than ever around the globe are in these dire straits, including those to whom money was given in the 50s via our missionary boxes.

What has gone wrong? Where has the money gone sent in the last 60 years, and will money now being sent be any better used? Government, i.e. taxpayers' aid, has very much come to the fore in recent years, with eye-watering figures, and I suspect that given in its present form is one of the most inefficient and ineffective ways of pretending to assist poorer countries ever devised, and should be stopped.

Money should not be given, but assistance in the form of work programmes and jobs for people in this country, channelled abroad via compulsory work for our own unemployed. This would create work here and abroad and would ensure positive outcomes

**CLIVE POTTS**
Bilston

# Are police worth more?

AFTER a vicious attack on one of his officers, West Midlands Police Chief Constable Dave Thompson is calling for tougher sentences on thugs who assault police.

He, and the PCC David Jamieson, should be pushing for thugs who assault anyone to receive tougher sentences than are currently handed down.

Police do a job most of wouldn't even dream of doing, but they should not be considered of higher value than the public they are meant to serve.

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In addition, its "Price Promise" is your assurance that wherever you go, you won't beat The Sofa Factory Outlet on price.

## Experience

The team at The Sofa Factory Outlet understand how difficult the process of choosing a new sofa can be, so they go out of their way to provide you with all the help you'll need to make sure you get exactly what you want.

Their 20 years of experience in helping people to make the right choice combined with their unrivalled customer service, means you'll be glad you chose them.

Don't be deceived by external appearances, the factory outlet shop in Thomas Street is a veritable Aladdin's Cave of sofas with a huge range of styles, sizes and fabrics to choose from.

And if one of them is 'nearly' right for you, the 'made to measure' service means the team can alter the size, proportions and cushion filling until it is just perfect for your needs.

The business has also supplied BBC's hit show DIY SOS a number of times and worked with designers such as Laurence Llewelyn Bowen and Gabrielle Blackman, making bespoke sofas including for the recent Children In Need special.

**Here's 10 good reasons why to choose The Sofa Factory…**

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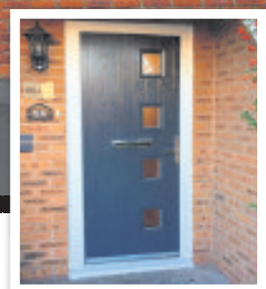

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# University in skills link up with council

A NEW 'skills' partnership has been formed between the University of Wolverhampton and Staffordshire County Council.

A university base has now opened in Staffordshire Place, Stafford, and the two organisations will work together to offer help in skills development through schools, colleges, apprenticeships and the workplace.

The aim of the Skills Deal partnership is to support the local economy.

### Social

The deal will provide the necessary skills for people to fill more than 100,000 jobs in health and social care, construction, advanced manufacturing, engineering and teaching that will be offered in Staffordshire in the next 10 years.

They are also looking at supporting those who want to start their own business.

Deputy vice-chancellor Jackie Dunne said: "This is about raising the aspirations of the population but also helping them realise their ambitions.

"It is also about producing real results which means increasing the opportunities for students and employees to access technical and higher level skills.

# Student Gia snaps up place in model final

Model Gia Lawrence-Harish selected from thousands

A TEENAGE photography student has reached the finals of a prestigious modelling competition.

Aspiring model 17-year-old Gia Lawrence-Harish, from Wolverhampton, was selected from thousands of other hopeful girls, all eager to make it to the finals of Top Model 2018.

The Dudley College student, who admitted she used to be teased at school, said being one of the few to be chosen had boosted her confidence.

Gia said: "I was really shocked to hear I had got through because I thought my nerves had got the better of me. I thought I would fall over. It's hard walking in heels normally let alone trying to be professional in them and strut my stuff."

The teenager has been modelling part time since she was 15. The Top Model 2018 Model Awards and Fashion Show will be held in London on April 6 and 7.

# Join together, call to polio sufferers

SUFFERERS of polio can unite with others affected. The British Polio Fellowship wants residents to join its branches in Wolverhampton and Dudley.

It is looking to bring together people affected by polio and post polio syndrome.

Chairman of the British Polio Fellowship David Mitchell said: "This invitation is also aimed at tackling the loneliness epidemic engulfing the UK, with three quarters of older people lonely. It doesn't have to be this way.

"The British Polio Fellowship already has a member base of around 10,000 people but in the UK alone there are 120,000 people who may have PPS. You are not alone, and for a very modest fee you can become part of our local, regional and national support network.

"Our membership comprises of people who have gone through the same situations and would love to meet you."

Visit britishpolio.org.uk/join-us or call 0800 043 1935.

# Drink-drive nurse apologises for 'letting down everybody'

**A MENTAL health nurse was caught nearly three times the drink-drive limit on his way back from a funeral.**

Denford Chitombo, aged 51, was banned from driving for 23 months after being stopped in Catisfield Crescent, Wolverhampton, on January 2

He pleaded guilty at Walsall Magistrates Court to driving a motor vehicle over the alcohol limit. Chitombo, of Massbrook Grove, Wolverhampton, was also given 80 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £135.

He was found to have 100 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35.

He said: "I'm ever so sorry. I feel I have let down everybody, myself, my family and my colleagues."

Chitombo, who had no previous convictions, was driving in a Silver Honda Accord from his uncle's funeral at the time with a family member. The court heard Chitombo would not lose his job as a result of losing his driving licence.

He was given a community order for 12 months supervised by the probation service. He was offered a drink-driving rehabilitation course.

# 13m airport visitors in 'best ever' figures

BIRMINGHAM Airport has unveiled its best-ever set of passenger figures, revealing nearly 13 million people passed through the terminals in 2017.

However bosses say it will struggle to match that this year, with the loss of Monarch and its 1.8 million passengers a year set to punch a hole in its figures.

In all, 12,983,436 passengers travelled through the airport during the calendar year, more than 1.3 million more people than in 2016. The busiest month was in August with almost 1.5 million passengers recorded.

David Winstanley, chief operating officer at Birmingham Airport, said: "The year was indeed one of celebration but also commiseration as we sadly saw the demise of a long-established airline, Monarch."

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# Crucial questions to consider before buying a conservatory

**A new consumer guide has revealed how to select the right company to fit the perfect conservatory for your home.**

Britain is a nation of proud homeowners and one of the best ways to enhance the look and feel inside your home is by adding a conservatory.

Apart from the extra space, a huge benefit of having a conservatory is the value it adds to your property.

Did you know according to the Land Registry home price index conservatories add 7.5% to value of your home?

This is more than kitchens at 4.6 % and bathrooms at 2.88% combined.

There are many uses for conservatories, one of which is turning it into a dining area.

Imagine enjoying quality time around the dining table with family and friends, creating those unforgettable memories on birthdays, anniversaries and festive celebrations.

## Avoid Making Costly Mistakes

Far too many homeowners are making poor choices at the point of purchase, which can have far reaching consequences in the future.

For example…if you're lucky enough to have a south- facing garden with a conservatory you will naturally attract more heat from the sun meaning it can be sweltering hot if it's not correctly ventilated, or when the temperature changes in the winter you could freeze without appropriate heating.

With proper planning you can prevent those two extremes happening, which is commonplace in poorly designed conservatories.

## Choosing the right company

The big challenge homeowners face is in choosing the right company. The traditional way is to simply call in three companies to quote and then make a decision based on price. This method is flawed because most companies will price match. But might not quality match.

A spokesman said: "Doing your due diligence before inviting any company out to quote will safeguard you. This can be done with the aid of two free resources we recommend.

"These two resource s will arm you with information you need to avoid unscrupulous operators who provide overpriced inferior products, with poor craftsmanship.

"Having access to these resources will certainly shield you from making any mistakes.

"If you're thinking about buying a conservatory, we would urge you to read the Ultimate Consumer Awareness Guide for Buying a New Conservatory. Inside the guide you'll discover"

- The seven questions you must ask before inviting a conservatory company to your home.
- How to evade the four biggest conservatory rip-offs used on unsuspecting homeowners .
- Learn about the little known Government legislation that could end up costing thousands in insurance claims, plus present a major problem if you try to sell your home.
- The eight mistakes to avoid when choosing the style of conservatory.

And much, much, more vital information, including the second free resource to help you make a better buying decision.

Call 0800 085 8518 now to receive your free copy of "The Ultimate Consumer Awareness Guide for Homeowners".

**Wombourne Windows has a huge range of styles and ranges to enhance any period of home. From windows and doors to conservatories and orangeries, the company has something for everyone.**

# Enhancing properties for 37 years

**Trusted since 1982, Wombourne Windows has been enhancing the look and value of thousands of customer homes with beautiful windows, doors and orangeries for 37 years. From country cottages to modern townhouses, our customers pride themselves on making the right choice with our high quality products, service and technical expertise.**

## Our Customers Demand The Best

Only the best quality materials and workmanship are used and as a result our customers feel assured of the excellent products that last for many years. Bricks and mortar may form the foundations of your house but it's the doors and windows that really create a home's personality. We understand selecting the right products for your home is important to you and like many of our customers we can guide you with our expert knowledge.

In previous years, it was a given that new windows would always be replaced with like-for-like, which in most cases meant white PVC-U, but in recent years, there has been a colour revolution driven by customers like you. Whilst white PVC-U is still going strong, today there is a myriad of options available, from dark anthracite greys, through to beautiful elegant creams, all the way through to soft greys and greens. Because of the varied colour palate and range of design options, we're experienced enough to work with you should you live a period country cottage or on a modern housing development.

## Safe and Secure

A spokesman added: "As well as enhancing the look of a home, doors and windows need to be able to offer protection from both unwanted visitors and the elements, so our high performance windows and doors are energy rated A++ Gold, with state-of-the-art locking systems, because customers like you would not expect anything less."

Mr & Mrs Lane commented: "The fitter was very good, tidy - taking all waste away and leaving no sign he'd been here. And the door is very sturdy, secure and good quality."

## New For 2018

The range of products continue to grow and new for 2018 is the range of Signature 2, double-glazed windows and doors which now incorporate the Tricept improved security features that have achieved the top accreditation PAS 24 and also feature a new range of luxury handles.

As requested by our customers, is the Trident range, the ultimate in energy saving performance and the only product which is purpose-made Triple glazed. If you want something different, look at the ever-popular Wodehouse Window, the perfect choice for a modern look or a more traditional design. Aluminium Bifold doors historically suffer from poor energy ratings. Wombourne Windows' third generation Bifold doors really have no equal and are not only energy efficient, but new enhanced security makes them the only sensible choice for home owners.

Most of us would love more space and light in our homes and our customers agree, there's no better way than with a quality conservatory or orangery. Conservatories and orangeries offer more benefits than you might think - forget everything you think you already know, our newot in the summer, so you own a comfortable lifestyle enhancing space to enjoy all year round.

Mr & Mrs Chandler commented: "From start to finish they were excellent and were very pleasant and cheerful. Our windows are beautiful and would tell anyone to use Wombourne Windows."

The spokesman added: "Come and view the full range of products at our newly-refurbished showroom and see for yourself why Wombourne Windows are market leaders for all your window, door, conservatory and orangery requirements."

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# Four flat-pack council homes are flown in

**EYESORE land is being transformed with new homes that are being built more than 200 miles away in Dublin.**

The four flat-pack homes were made in Ireland before being flown to Wolverhampton and lifted into position on Cannock Road in Fallings Park next month.

The two-storey semi-detached houses are made by Extraspace Solutions as part of a £600,000 pilot scheme by Wolverhampton Council in conjunction with Wolverhampton Homes.

Bosses say the company in Ireland can build the homes much faster than builders here would be able to construct traditional houses on the site. But critics say they look like 'cheap, flat-roofed boxes'.

## Accelerate

Councillor Peter Bilson, deputy leader and cabinet member for city assets and housing, said: "This is an innovative way to accelerate house building in Wolverhampton.

"Clearly, larger housing developments are crucial to meeting our housing targets – but the cumulative effect of smaller scale projects like this is also vital to improving our offer."

Wolverhampton homes chief executive Shaun Aldis said: "Modular buildings have many benefits over traditional construction including a shorter construction time, reduced site disruption and more consistent quality."

Conservative councillor Jonathan Yardley, who works in the construction industry, called the decision 'eccentric', describing it as a step backwards to 'post-war austerity style' housing.

In place – homes being installed on the Cannock Road site

# 'Victory' on defence cuts

DEFENCE secretary Gavin Williamson has scored a major victory in his battle against military budget cuts after Downing Street announced a new defence review.

The Ministry of Defence will oversee the review, which gives Defence Secretary Mr Williamson an extra five months to make the case for increased military funding.

The South Staffordshire MP has been pushing for a separate defence review, insisting the armed forces must be equipped to deal with the rising threats. It comes after the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Nick Carter, warned that his forces were struggling to keep up with Russian advances.

Downing Street has announced that the defence strand of the long-awaited security capability review, run by Sir Mark Sedwill, will now be spun off into a full-blown defence review.

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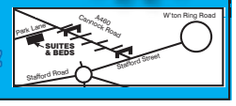


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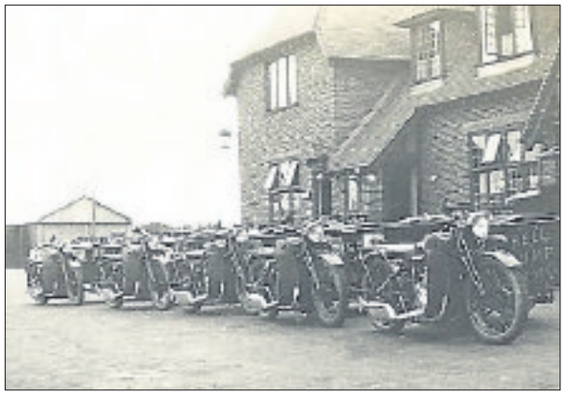
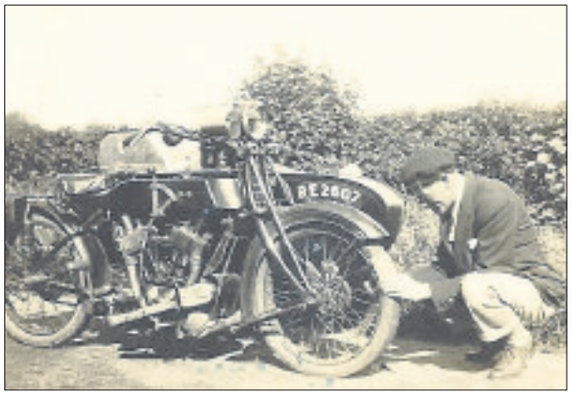
AJS tester on the road in Lancashire



Test bikes with sidecars outside a pub on the A1 near Peterborough



An AJS tester mends a puncture

A restored AJS Model 20 on display

TTHC members sorting out the pieces of a Model 20

# Testing times faced by motorcycle company

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

**ALBERT John Stevens is a name which doesn't mean a lot to most people, until you take just the initials, AJS.**

Suddenly it becomes the name of a long convoluted story which began in Wolverhampton in 1909, and is still having chapters written today.

Albert John was one of four Stevens brothers, sons of Joe Stevens who ran the Stevens Screw Company in the town. They became interested in designing motor cycles and engines, and in 1909 set up a company in Retreat Street making motorbikes and engines for other makes, like Clyno.

Albert John lent his initials to the new enterprise, which prospered and expanded. AJS soon became well-known for racing bikes and were often winning the TT races in the Isle of Man.

They outgrew their premises and expanded into a large new factory across the Penn Road, where Waitrose supermarket stands today. AJS testers often went on long trips to strain the durability of their cycles, and racing continued to place them in the public eye, but the Depression hit the company hard, and in 1931 it closed.

The name went to Associated Motor-Cycles of Plumstead, who continued marketing bikes with the AJS badge, often twinned with an equivalent Matchless. This continued until the company came under the Norton-Villiers umbrella in 1966, renewing the name's ties with Wolverhampton.

AJS motor-cycles were now largely off-road bikes, but the continuing problems of the British motorcycle industry forced another closure. The AJS brand was one of the fragments sold off, and has experienced a chequered history since, currently being applied to scrambler and small bikes made in China. The Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre has a piece of the long AJS history in the form of a Model 20, kindly donated, in pieces, and now on display after a skilful restoration.

It's not a Wolverhampton-built bike, being a Plumstead product from 1955, but its an integral part of a local industrial saga which the museum is happy to tell.

AJS test riders setting off down the Penn Road

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# Award-winning kitchen makeover specialists

## Commercial feature

**WHY Use Dream Doors? Dream Doors is a family business run by Richard Foster.**

Richard and his team have a passion for service, design, quality and value for money and have built a trusted reputation across Wolverhampton. Dream Doors can offer a unique kitchen refurbishment service tailored to your exact needs, from a cosmetic facelift using replacement doors through to a complete redesign and installation using new units.

As a starting point, consider whether you really need a complete refit when a makeover can look as good? Instead of the expensive, long-winded and stressful experience of replacing your entire kitchen, why not consider a kitchen facelift from Dream Doors?

### Worktops

By replacing your old kitchen unit doors with made-to-measure new ones and incorporating new worktops and possibly a sink, or an oven and a hob, you will save at least half the cost of a comparable new kitchen.

A Dream Doors kitchen facelift can give you a new kitchen in days, not weeks. At Dream Doors, we don't take a 'one size fits all' approach. When you buy kitchen doors and drawers from us, we painstakingly craft each one to the exact measurements of your existing kitchen carcasses, ensuring a flawless finish, every time.

All doors can be supplied with matching end panels, cornice, lighting pelmet and plinth so the finished result looks like a completely new kitchen.

Thinking of updating your kitchen? Look no further

But why keep the existing carcasses? There are a number of reasons. Firstly, a kitchen makeover is far cheaper if you simply replace the doors and drawers. Secondly, many carcasses can last up to 20 years, so in most cases, they are in good condition and do not need replaced. Thirdly, by re-using your existing carcasses, you can do your bit for the planet by reducing your waste.

On the other hand, being realistic, your kitchen may have come to the stage where a complete replacement kitchen built to a new design is more appropriate.

Dream Doors can design and deliver you the new kitchen of your dreams at an affordable price.

To view our full range of kitchen doors and drawers, visit your local Dream Doors kitchen showroom on Tettenhall Road, Newbridge. There, our friendly team will show you the thousands of different combinations available, and help you decide on the perfect match for your kitchen. Then, one of our team will visit you at home and measure up your kitchen carcasses, ensuring your new choices will fit perfectly.

"Every customer has the opportunity to review our business through the independent consumer monitoring website, Checkatrade.com, and with 228 reviews already and getting average score of 9.82 out of 10 we are very proud of our results."

A customer in Wolverhampton gave them top results saying 'Dream Doors provided an excellent service with friendly advice. Great choice of doors and appliances. Fitters very efficient and pleasant. We are delighted. I would recommend.'

Another customer literally could not believe the results saying "Superb job from start to finish. Friendly, polite and very helpful staff both in showroom and fitter. Finished result excellent. Would recommend them with no hesitation."

For guaranteed satisfaction contact Dream Doors Wolverhampton on 01902 752200 today

# Injunction puts brakes on car cruisers

Commercial feature

**A GROUND-BREAKING injunction banning car cruising in the Black Country has been extended for a further three years.**

The injunction bans people from taking part in a car cruise anywhere within Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall, or from promoting, organising or publicising any such event in the four areas.

It has had a major impact since being introduced in 2015, leading to a significant reduction in car cruising in many parts of the Black Country, with the problem being eliminated entirely in some areas.

Some 17 people have also been convicted of breaching the injunction, either by participating in or organising a car cruise, and have received suspended prison sentences, been fined up to £1,000 and ordered to pay court costs.

CCTV footage captured car cruising in a car park

Ground-breaking – The car cruising ban has been extended in the Black Country

## Menace

However, there are still car cruising hotspots in the region with a number of fatalities linked to car cruising in recent years, and so the four Black Country boroughs, led by the City of Wolverhampton Council and West Midlands Police, were successful in seeking a continuation of the injunction until February 1, 2021 at the Birmingham District Registry of the High Court on January 9, 2018.

Councillor Paul Sweet, the City of Wolverhampton Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, said: "Car cruising is noisy, dangerous and illegal, causing damage to property and posing a risk of injury or worse to participants and the general public alike. It also takes up a lot of valuable time for our hard-pressed emergency services.

"Since its introduction in 2015, the injunction has helped to dramatically reduce the menace of car cruising across the Black Country, eliminating it altogether in certain areas.

"However, the problem has not been entirely eradicated; car cruises are still being held in our region, sometimes with fatal consequences."

Councillor Milkinder Jaspal, Cabinet Member for Governance, said: "The City of Wolverhampton Council's legal team was instrumental in securing this injunction, enabling the police and the four Black Country councils to continue to crack down on car cruising and to bring perpetrators to book.

"It should be stressed that we are not seeking to prevent legitimate car enthusiasts from enjoying their hobby. What we want to do is to continue to prevent the menace of car cruising, which for so long made life a misery for people across the Black Country."

PC Stuart Hemming, from West Midlands Police, said: "We will continue to work with councils in the Black Country to eradicate this anti-social and dangerous behaviour and make our boroughs safer places."

Incidents of car cruising should be reported to West Midlands Police on 101. In an emergency, always dial 999. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/carcruisingban

### The Injunction

Under the terms of the injunction:

1) It is forbidden for anyone to participate in "car cruising" (as defined in the Schedule below) anywhere within the Claimants' combined geographical area known locally as the Black Country Area.

2) It is also forbidden for anyone to promote, organise, or publicise via e-mail, the internet or any publication or broadcast, any "car cruising" within the defined geographical area.

3) A power of arrest pursuant to section 27 Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006 shall apply to clause 1 above.

4) The order and power of arrest shall continue in force for a further three years following the commencement of this order or until it is varied or discharged by the court. This extension of the duration of the order shall come into effect at midnight on February 2, 2018 (when the order as originally granted ceases to be in force) provided that the Claimants have completed certain steps. It shall, subject to further order, expire at midnight on February 1, 2021.

5) Personal service of this injunction is dispensed with pursuant to rule 81.8 of the Civil Procedure Rules.

### Schedule

1) The injunction defines car cruising as two or more motor vehicles (including motorbikes) between the hours of 3pm and 7am being on a highway or in a publicly accessible place within the Black Country area at which any such vehicle or occupant of a vehicle performs any of the prohibited activities listed in clause 3 below which causes, or is capable of causing, any of the prohibited consequences set out in clause 4 below.

2) Participating in car cruising means being the driver of, or being carried in (or on), a motor vehicle (including motorbikes) in circumstances in which clause 1 (above) applies.

3) The prohibited activities referred to in clause 1 above are: speeding; driving in convoy; racing; performing stunts; sounding horns or playing music as to cause a nuisance; using foul or abusive language; using threatening, intimidating behaviour towards another person; and causing obstruction on a public highway, whether moving or stationary.

4) The prohibited consequences referred to in clause 1 above are: excessive noise; danger or risk of injury to road users, including pedestrians; damage or significant risk of damage to property; risk of harm; nuisance; and annoyance.

The copy of the full injunction and map showing the Black Country area is available at http://bit.ly/carcruisingban and council and police offices.

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Walsall Council
City of Wolverhampton Council

'Garden city' image

## Work kicks off – with green oasis to spring up

WORK to transform Bilston Urban Village into a green oasis has started.

Company idverde has begun landscaping works for the 'garden city', expected to be completed this summer.

Up to 450 homes are to be built on the former brownfield site which will be connected by 14 hectares of land for public open space and a nature conservation.

Councillor John Reynolds, Wolverhampton council's cabinet member for city economy, said: "This is a major milestone for Bilston Urban Village. People are already moving into the first of up to 450 new homes.

The open space strategy will see idverde deliver a green environment for the community to enjoy."

The council project ties in with the garden city concept commissioned by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

# Cracks! Writing could be on the wall for guide group

**GIRL guides in Wombourne might have to hand back their badges and sashes for good unless their local village hall undergoes serious repair work.**

The 50-year-old building in Mill Lane is used every day, with more than 250 children visiting per week. The group is now issuing an urgent plea for help to repair it.

Volunteers have been busy organising cake sales, dance shows and other fundraising events, but say it only covers running costs.

District commissioner for girlguiding in Wombourne Becky Fletcher said the whole hall was suffering "serious structural damage".

### Leaking

The 24-year-old volunteer said: "We had a structural review and it is safe at the moment but there are large cracks in the wall and a leaking roof. There is no disabled access either meaning we can't promote that.

"We want to make it a hub for the local community, so other groups can use it too. If it got to the point where it was unsafe we would have to move out."

By Megan Archer

Becky, who works at Wolverhampton City Council in the education department, said working with children was her passion and she desperately wanted to keep running the sessions out of the village hall.

"Girlguiding gives girls a chance to make new friends, have fun and grow in confidence, and provides them with opportunities to develop new life skills.

The team have set a target of £10,000 and have applied for various grants, such as the Aviva Community Fund, for extra help.

Becky has launched a crowd-funding page, hoping to raise extra for a new paint job and other minor repair work. Visit justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wombourneguidehall

Large cracks in the wall, a leaking roof and no disabled access may force out girl guides

Much loved – Win Saha

## Tributes to poet who entertained generations

A 'MUCH-LOVED' poet who enjoyed entertaining people with her witty verse has died aged 93.

Win Saha, who lived in Perton, had been writing poetry since she was six. She was a familiar face at literary festivals and other arts events with people travelling from miles around to see her perform.

During her career as a journalist in Birmingham, the mother of two also met many famous names including Laurel and Hardy and Mae West.

She spent six years working at the Birmingham Gazette and Evening Dispatch. Mrs Saha, who leaves her husband of 50 years, Ranjan, had countless poems published.

Mrs Saha's daughter, Sue, said: "She definitely had a way with words. She had a very good sense of humour and she was loved by so many in Perton."

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# Festival fever as local bands already bag spot in line up

By Megan Archer

A MUSIC festival will be returning for a fourth time this summer, with local bands already bagging a highly sought-after spot in the line-up.

Wolvesfest will be held on June 16 at the city's rugby club in Castlecroft – and tickets can be snapped up from this month.

Already organisers have confirmed 16 acts, with eight live bands and eight acoustic line-ups, including Wolverhampton groups Tinned Astronaut and The Icon.

Last year's event proved a huge success, showcasing the best in Birmingham and Black Country talent. It raised £10,000.

Organised by the rugby club, it aims to raise funds for the development of the club and its adult and junior teams.

Festival organiser Shaun Ryan said he hoped the 2018 version would be even bigger and better than last year.

He said: "We're hoping for 2,000 people. Last year was a very good year as we had such nice weather, but it's growing steadily.

"We just want more people to know what the event is like, it's family friendly. We get 300 kids playing rugby on a Sunday here. We'd like to raise awareness."

Early bird tickets cost £10 or £15 on the door. Visit wolvesfest.com

Musicians on stage at last year's Wolvesfest event

# Art takes us back to childhood memories

**A NOSTALGIC art exhibition will look to bring back childhood memories.**

Wolverhampton Art Gallery will see a touring show from the V&A Museum of Childhood pay homage to the creations of Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin. The pair, who started collaborating in the 1950s, were behind the much-loved Bagpuss and The Clangers, Pogles Wood, Noggin the Nog and Ivor the Engine.

Clangers, Bagpuss & Co will go behind the scenes and give visitors a look at the original puppets, sets and filming equipment used to create the shows.

It offers a peek into the world of Smallfilms and a chance to see how characters developed – including a look at Postgate and Firmin's top-frame animation techniques.

Shows at the gallery start from February 10 and run to April 29.

# Register now as event prepares to do business

Report by Simon Penfold

**SCORES of events are lined up for the biggest celebration of business ever to be held in the Black Country – but more are needed.**

Organisers are aiming for 100 events across the fortnight-long Black Country Business Festival, ranging from major conferences to workshops and even internet seminars – so-called 'webinars'.

With just weeks until the deadline to register, around a dozen are confirmed but another 65 have been registered. These are in various stages of organisation, with some still needing venues. Kathryn Hall, from event organisers Associate Events, said: "Many are almost ready, but we still want more from right across all the business sectors we are trying to focus on.

Deadline nearing

"We have a lot of interest from professional services and marketing companies, but we'd like more events from other sectors too."

The festival is being spearheaded by the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, and chief executive Corin Crane said: "The Black Country Business Festival is going to be the biggest and best business event that's ever happened in this region. Everyone needs to be involved – whatever business they are in.

"We are looking for businesses to run events in transport and logistics, retail, tourism and hospitality, advanced manufacturing, automotive and construction – as well as the more common industries for events like education, communications and professional services.

## Phrase

"Anyone can get involved in the Business Festival. We want as many organisations as possible to take part, so we can show the rest of the world what a fantastic place the Black Country is to live, work and do business – because 'this is the Black Country'!"

That phrase has become a strapline for the event and organisers are asking business people and companies to use the hashtag #thisistheblackcountry in their social media to spread the word.

The Festival is envisaged as largely 'business to business' with events put on by local companies to help other Black Country businesses and individuals to learn from each other and it is planned for the next three years.

It is supported by the University of Wolverhampton and Talbots Law.

The deadline to register is February 22. Meanwhile tickets for the confirmed events at the festival, which runs from Monday, April 23 to Friday, May 4.

For information go to www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com or email hello@blackcountrybusinessfestival.com

# Helpers spruce up shelter for homeless

A FRESH lick of paint was given to a homeless shelter thanks to volunteers.

Wolverhampton Church Shelter was given the 'much-needed' spruce-up over three days.

It comes after the refuge was told it could remain open for the next 12 months at its base within The Church at Broad Street.

Jeremy Watson, who has been involved with the shelter since it first opened in January 2016, said: "The shelter is not just a place to sleep, it's a place where we try to help people to move on. We want to see them progress back into employment and accommodation."

## Donations

"We would like to thank S J Dixons & Son Ltd for providing the paint."

The Westbury Street shelter, which provides beds for 20 rough sleepers, was launched in 2016 after a woman was found dead outside Queen Street's Nandos.

Its initial run in 2016 was paid for by more than £5,000 of donations from the public, including money from St Peter's Collegiate School and the Greggs Foundation.

It is a joint project between Tabernacle Baptist Church and Grace Church Wolverhampton.

# Check out table top sale date

SHOPPERS can browse bargains at a table top sale on Sunday.

Stalls selling toys, clothes and equipment for children under six, as well as maternity clothes, will be set up at Codsall Village Hall from 2-4pm.

There are three different sizes of tables available for anyone interested in selling items.

Tables can be booked on 01902 843412, or email contact@codsallvillagehall.co.uk.

# Young grill MP on hot topics

AN MP was grilled by young people on the nation's hottest topics, including Brexit, Carillion, employment and benefits. Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden met with a youth group from charity Square Pegs Round Holes.

The organisation works with young people across Wolverhampton to enable them to have a bigger voice, participate in decision-making processes and advocate on their behalf. Mr McFadden spoke to the young people about the role of an MP; what they do in Parliament and in the constituency on a day-to-day basis.

"There were also some other teenagers whoput questions to Mr McFadden via Skype.

Mr McFadden said: "It was great to hear how passionate the young people are about issues that affect their lives."

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Early site works have begun on building the city's new railway station

Residents are moving into 450 new homes at Bilston Urban Village

90% of the workforce at the new Debenhams are city residents

# Transformation under way in Wolverhampton

**City of Wolverhampton is being transformed by £3.7 billion of investment on site or in the pipeline – and it's making a real difference to residents and visitors.**

The £55 million Westside scheme this month reached a major milestone with Urban&Civic receiving outline planning permission for the first phase of its development on 6.4 acres of land at the heart of the city.

Enabling works continue on the exciting leisure-led project, and strong demand from occupiers means construction on the first phase is set to begin later this year.

A new multiplex cinema, 50,000 square feet of additional leisure space, new restaurants covering 40,000 square feet, a new 100-plus bed hotel, and a new multi-storey car park are part of phase one.

It is anticipated 430 new jobs will be created once all of phase one is open to the public - and more than 500 construction jobs will be available during its two-year build.

Phase two will deliver new city centre homes and additional retail and leisure space.

Councillor John Reynolds, Cabinet Member for City Economy, said: "It's a big year for regeneration in our city with the Westside project leading the way.

## Investment

"The jobs figures show just how this type of investment not only regenerates the city – but how it changes people's lives by delivering jobs and new opportunities.

"The scheme has already attracted unprecedented demand from occupiers and outline planning approval means the finer details can now be agreed with exciting big brands.

"Urban&Civic has an excellent track record in delivering high-quality schemes in the UK and have the financial support in place.

"There is a general enthusiasm around the Westside opportunity, and optimism concerning the groundswell of regeneration activity across the city, where £3.7 billion of investment is on site or in the pipeline.

"The outstanding proposals put forward by Urban&Civic perfectly meet our expectations of a regenerated Wolverhampton."

The £150 million City of Wolverhampton Interchange project is also set to make big strides in 2018 – developing a transport hub the city can be proud of and providing an attractive gateway to those arriving in the city by national rail, bus or tram.

The next phase of the Midland Metro city extension along Pipers Row up to its junction with Railway Drive will start in March and will be completed in the summer.

£55m Westside scheme will begin this year bringing 430+ new jobs

When operational, after the construction of the new Railway Station is complete, trams will serve two additional tram stops; one at the city's bus station on Pipers Row and one at Wolverhampton Railway Station, allowing easy interchange with other modes of public transport.

Contractors Galliford Try - one of the UK's leading construction groups, responsible for Birmingham's Royal Birmingham Conservatoire - have started early site works on the new railway station with full demolition works to begin in the coming months ahead of the emergence of an iconic railway station in two years' time.

A planning application is imminent from developers Ion for the new eye-catching modern office building, i9, on Railway Drive.

Building on the success of i10, it is hoped i9, which will provide 50,000 sq ft of Grade A office space, will be completed in 2020 and could become a national or regional headquarters for a major business.

It is the next step in building a thriving commercial quarter at the heart of Wolverhampton Interchange bringing further investment and jobs. Steve Parry, managing director of Ion, commented: 'Glenn Howells Architects have created a brilliant concept for i9. It will strengthen City of Wolverhampton's appeal as a place to conduct business."

Regeneration is also delivering major improvements to the cultural and retail offer in the city. Work has already begun on increasing the exhibition spaces at Wolverhampton Art Gallery to attract larger touring displays, with the relocation of its popular café to the ground floor to also take place this year.

Multi-million-pound improvements to the iconic Grade II-listed Civic Halls continue to ensure they remain the jewels in the crown of the Black Country's entertainment business.

As well as ensuring a top-quality entertainment venue for the next 25 years and beyond, independent consultants estimate that the scheme will support 876 direct and indirect jobs, attract 440,000 visitors a year to the city, and bring £8.3 million worth of goods and services to the city.

The Mander Centre's £35 million refurbishment is transforming the City of Wolverhampton as a retail destination.

It's new flagship Debenhams store is proving popular with shoppers and around 130 of its 150 workforce are City of Wolverhampton residents.

Linking the different areas of the city centre is also key to the City of Wolverhampton Council's regeneration plans and a Connected Places strategy has been developed to improve the public realm in the city centre and ensure it is a warm and inviting place to visit. This includes the recent installation of LED lighting, delivered in partnership with Wolverhampton Business Improvement District (BID), which also showcases some of the many architecturally beautiful features and buildings.

New homes are a top priority across the city. Residents have already moved into the first of 450 homes being built at Bilston Urban Village and contractors will soon be landscaping the area as part on an open space strategy tied into the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) Garden City concept.

Contractors are also on site at the former Tap Works site in Low Hill, the former Danesmore Primary School site for the first of 1,000 homes to be delivered by WV Living over the next four years, and the former Royal Hospital site in the city centre, where work is underway by the Homes and Communities Agency to build 340 homes, with the landmark Grade II Listed hospital building remaining at the heart of the scheme.

Housing will also form part of plans to make major improvements to one of the city's key gateways.

The aim of the East Park Gateway Regeneration Programme is to deliver better employment and residential opportunities in the area through investment in new industrial development and housing, and by making road and environmental improvements.

Deputy Leader of the City Council, Councillor Peter Bilson, said: "2018's a big year for our city with regeneration works set to start on key projects which will create a more vibrant city, better transport infrastructure and thousands of new homes. Most importantly, that means thousands of new jobs and opportunities for local people."

i9 could become the headquarters for a major business

New lighting creates a more vibrant, safer environment

City of Wolverhampton

# A £3.7 billion future we can all invest in

The City of **Wolverhampton** is being transformed with £3.7 billion investment which is bringing new jobs, giving local people skills to get and keep work, building new homes and creating a vibrant city.

## More jobs

**430 NEW JOBS BY 2020** at new Westside development

plus **500+ construction jobs** during build

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Source: fDi magazine

**4,600 JOBS AT i54** from £1.15bn investment

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## New homes

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**450 HOMES** at Bilston Urban Village underway

## A vibrant city

**£55 MILLION** WESTSIDE LEISURE SCHEME ON SITE 2018 OPEN 2020 cinema, restaurants, hotel, multi-storey car park

**TOP UK city** to raise a family

Source: Money Supermarket Family Living Index

Multi-million pound **CIVIC HALLS REGENERATION** underway - bringing **BIGGER, BETTER SHOWS**

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# Production cut at major JLR car plant

CAR giant Jaguar Land Rover is to cut production at its Halewood plant, where it makes its best-selling Evoque. The move comes amid slowing demand caused by Brexit uncertainty and consumer concern over the future of diesel vehicles.

It is not clear if the Halewood move will have any impact on the company's plant at i54, near Wolverhampton, which makes engines for most of its Land Rover and Jaguar models.

A site spokeswoman said: "Our production schedule remains flexible and agile and our production increases and decreases depending on customer requirements, as part of standard business practice."

In a statement about Halewood, the company said it had delivered another record breaking year in vehicle sales, adding: "The automotive industry continues to face a range of challenges which are adversely affecting consumer confidence.

"Ongoing uncertainty surrounding Brexit is being felt by customers at home and in Europe where collectively, we sell approximately 45 per cent of total UK production.

"Add to this, concern around the future of petrol and diesel engines, and general global economic and political uncertainty and it's clear to see why industry is seeing an impact on car sales."

# Not too late for Aussie flu jab

HEALTH experts have insisted it is not too late to get vaccinated against Aussie flu, amid a rise in UK cases.

Dr Helen Hibbs, from the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, said the jab had proved effective against the strain of flu – and said people should take measures to protect themselves. She said it was a particularly nasty strain of flu.

# Pupils to make HeadStart in supporting classmates

## Wood you believe it? A 'dragon's den'

Unusual sight (look at right of picture) seen in the woods

THERE could be dragons in those woods. Or so it appeared to Crispin Clark when he was walking his dog in the countryside near Wolverhampton and saw this fallen tree.

He and his greyhound were following a footpath between Wombourne and Baggeridge recently when the 'dragon' loomed into view. And looking at what seems to be a head and body you can see what he means.

"I did a double take when I saw the tree as it appeared to look like a mythical monster with a snout and eye," the 68-year-old editorial trainer said. "Admittedly, it wasn't breathing fire but from a certain angle it definitely had the look of a dragon."

Crispin, from Penn, Wolverhampton, said he and his wife had often walked along the path with their greyhound, Star but he had never made the dragon connection before.

The path, which starts at the A449 close to the Red Lion and runs to the edge of Baggeridge Country Park, is a favourite with the couple.

**SCHOOLCHILDREN are being encouraged to become mental health ambassadors to help improve the wellbeing of their friends and classmates.**

Programme HeadStart has been launched by Wolverhampton Council, and staff are recruiting keen and caring Year 7 pupils to help give the best support to young people in the city. They will work together in the areas where the need is known to be greatest.

These include Low Hill, The Scotlands and Bushbury South; Springfield, Heath Town, Park Village and Eastfield; All Saints, Blakenhall, Parkfields and Ettingshall, and Bilston East.

The scheme was officially launched at an event in Low Hill, where young people could apply.

Programme co-ordinator Sunita Pallan-Jhalli said: "We have been inundated with applications and it's wonderful to see so many young people wanting to help preserve the mental wellbeing of their peers.

### Projects

"All our mini ambassadors have to complete a short application form, telling us a bit about themselves, why they want to become a mini ambassador and what they hope to bring to the role.

"Our chosen mini ambassadors will be providing a voice for younger people in Wolverhampton, and have the opportunity to choose local initiatives and add value to community projects."

HeadStart Wolverhampton is designed to improve the mental health and well-being of children and young people aged 10-16 by giving them the skills they need to cope with the challenges of modern life.

For details email headstart@wolverhampton.gov.uk or call 01902 550851.

# Pope honours Sue for her charity aid

THE inspirational head of a community project based in a deprived city suburb has been given an award by the Pope.

Sue Allen was recognised by Pope Francis for her 20 years work on the Hope Community Project in Heath Town, Wolverhampton in a surprise presentation.

She has led the charity with the help of its two founding partners, the Infant Jesus Sisters and Father Hudson's Care, as well as a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. The charity offers services to residents experiencing poverty, isolation and other difficulties.

Under her leadership, the charity has contributed to the city-wide gang prevention strategy and supported local residents through the Heath Town regeneration programme.

She was presented with the papal award by Bishop David McGough.

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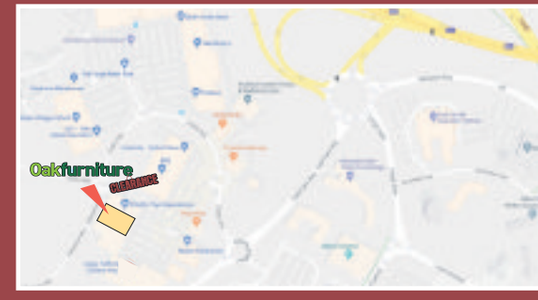

# It's really not worth taking from us, say shop bosses

**A SUPERMARKET has teamed up with police to warn criminals that targeting their shops is 'not worth the risk' as there will only be low levels of cash available.**

The Co-op has seen several of its West Midlands stores hit by violent robberies over recent months and has now issued a message to thieves that they are unlikely to get away with much money. The company said it has placed strict cash controls on stores to make them less vulnerable to attack, meaning only a low amount of money will be on the premises.

Bosses have joined West Midlands Police in launching the campaign against shop robbers.

A number of shops have been targeted recently in the Black Country and Staffordshire, including a Spar in Bentley, Walsall, which was ramraided in December.

### Controls

That came just days after a worker at Poundland in Great Barr was threatened by a knifeman who got away with cash.

Matt Birch, trading executive at Central England Co-op, said: "We have stringent cash controls in our stores and the result is that thieves get away with little to no cash at all.

"As there are no large amounts of cash on site, a would-be criminal could be looking at up to 10 years in prison for each incident of armed robbery. Ask yourself the question, is the risk worth the reward – the answer from our point of view is no.

"These criminals are getting away with less than £200 per robbery which could see them in prison for up to 10 years."

## Crisis claim over NHS vacancies

THE number of vacant nursing posts reached a new high of 34,260 last year, indicating a staffing 'crisis'.

Official figures show some areas only recruited one nurse for every 400 jobs advertised.

The NHS Digital statistics added there were almost 88,000 vacancies across the NHS in England in the quarter to September.

The Royal College of Nursing said the statistics revealed the number of vacant nursing and midwifery posts reached a new high of 34,260 in the three months to September, an increase of 2,600 on the previous quarter.

"The Government can no longer deny the staffing crisis," said RCN general secretary Janet Davies. "It is time to draw a line under this false economy with urgent investment."

## This sleepover will be just plane sailing

Spend night with the planes

Picture by Trustees of the Royal Air Force Museum

YOUNGSTERS are invited to grab their sleeping bags and get set for a night at the Royal Air Force Museum, as Cosford launches its 'Pillows and Pilots' sleepovers.

The museum is offering groups the chance to set up camp in the National Cold War Exhibition where they will sleep among the planes, tanks and missiles.

The evening will be packed with interactive activities including building and launching K'Nex rocket cars, with a prize for the car which travels the furthest. Youngsters can decorate a ceramic rocket money box and personalise a canvas bag, before selecting props and posing for a picture as a memento.

At 9pm it will be time for everyone to head into the 200-seat auditorium to watch 'A Night at the Museum' and enjoy an evening snack and drink, before settling down for the night among the historic aircraft. A continental breakfast will be served the following morning with early bird access to the museum shop and Test Flight hangar.

The 'Pillows and Pilots' sleepovers will take place on March 24, aimed at boy groups, and May 12, for mixed groups. The event on April 28, aimed at girl groups, is already fully booked with Girlguiding groups. The events are suitable for organised groups of children aged 8-15. Tickets cost £35 per child and £5 per adult.

## Views sought on improving quality of air

PEOPLE are urged to share their thoughts on a scheme to improve the air quality in Wolverhampton city centre.

Transport for West Midlands has set up a city centre partnership with bus operators, aiming to reduce congestion, improve passenger and pedestrian safety, and improve driving standards.

The scheme will cover 70 stops and shelters within the city centre ring road. A 13-week public consultation is now taking place until April 23 and all feedback will be considered.

Leader of City of Wolverhampton Council Councillor Roger Lawrence said: "This scheme is excellent news for bus passengers in Wolverhampton.

"It helps tackle the hugely important issue of air quality in the city centre by ensuring a minimum standard on bus engine emissions. It also ensures a smoother operation of bus services within the zone, ensuring a better environment all round."

Partnerships are already operating in Birmingham and Solihull and a similar scheme is due in Walsall.

Any comments, suggestions or objections to the scheme need to be made in writing to WMCA by the deadline at tfwm.org.uk/strategy/bus-alliance/wolverhampton-ad vanced-quality-bus-partnership.

## Festival date for food and wine

A DATE has been announced for the food and wine festival at Halfpenny Green Wine Estate at Bobbington, near Wolverhampton.

The third annual event at the vineyard in Tom Lane will be on June 9 from 10am-4pm in the garden area and shop. The free event will feature a barbecue and live entertainment.


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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

McCarthy & Stone
Retirement living to the full

**McCarthy and Stone specialises in creating stunning collections of ideally located, low maintenance age-exclusive apartments, and its latest developments in Codsall and Tettenhall are no exception.**

Brindley Gardens, a Retirement Living development close to the shops at Birches Bridge, Codsall, is thoughtfully-designed exclusively for the over 60s to provide the very best in modern, independent living within a safe and secure environment. With no external maintenance or gardening to worry about and a coffee lounge for socialising in, these 39 apartments give you time to enjoy life to the full.

Thorneycroft, a Retirement Living Plus development on Wood Road in the heart of Tettenhall is designed exclusively for the over 70s and offers 58 private 1 or 2 bedroomed apartments. With domestic help included and additional personal help available if required there is also the added attraction of a bistro to which friends and relatives can also be invited to dine in. Set in leafy gardens this is an ideal opportunity to plan ahead for future needs.

Both Brindley Gardens and Thorneycroft have a secure entrance system and 24-hour emergency call points providing added peace-of-mind.

Facilities at each development will also include a coffee lounge; landscaped gardens; and a convenient guest suite should homeowners have friends or relatives to stay.

Clock Gardens, a Lifestyle Living development on Stockwell Road in Tettenhall, is exclusively designed for the over 55s and features 22 high specification one and two bedroom apartments. It is an ideal option in a prestigious location for those who want to 'lock up and leave' – a welcoming, low maintenance home to return to in-between holidays and other adventures. Buyers have the reassurance of a secure gated environment with external lighting. Clock Gardens also features its own stunning garden, concierge and private parking.

# Your retirement, three solutions

McCarthy & Stone
Retirement living to the full

## RETIREMENT LIVING PLUS
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You and your family can enjoy peace of mind with 24-7 on site staff and an hours domestic assistance per week to help with all those annoying chores.

**Thorneycroft Information Day**
**Wednesday 7 February 11am-4pm**
The Mount Hotel, Mount Road, Tettenhall WV6 8HL

## LIFESTYLE LIVING
Clock Gardens, Stockwell Road,
Tettenhall WV6 9PS

Clock Gardens, in 'old' Tettenhall provides a stylish solution for the over-55s looking to maximise their free time.

Our low maintenance, high-specification apartments are light and spacious, provide privacy and have security features to give extra peace of mind if you want to 'lock-up and leave'.

Also the concierge, on-site for two hours each week day, takes care of the development. Downsize not compromise at this stunning development.

**Clock Gardens**
**Open Monday-Saturday 10.30am-5.00pm and Sunday 11.00am-4.00pm**

## RETIREMENT LIVING
Brindley Gardens, Duck Lane,
Bilbrook, Codsall WV8 1FL

Brindley Gardens is perfectly located in Birches Bridge, with shops and amenities on its doorstep. Socialise with friends in the stylish coffee lounge or enjoy a glass of wine in the beautifully landscaped gardens, and relax with the thought of never having to worry about exterior maintenance and gardening again.

Close to the Staffordshire countryside, with amenities and cultural attractions of Wolverhampton nearby, you can enjoy the best of both worlds at Brindley Gardens.

**Brindley Gardens Opportunity Day**
**Friday 16 February 11.00am-4.00pm**
**Codsall Village Hall, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall WV8 1PW**

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LP-WolverhamptonChronicle

# Eurofit, your local trusted autocentres

Commercial feature

**Eurofit Autocentres are markng their 15th anniversary – and letting customers old and new share in the celebrations with a special discount offer.**

In celebration of this special 15th year, Eurofit are offering 15 per cent off any service excluding tyres, batteries and free services.

This offer is available until March 31 online at eurofitautocentres.co.uk and in store. Customers can claim the offer by entering the code 15_OF3_N0W before booking online or show the 15OFF voucher in store.

Eurofit Autocentres first opened in 2003 in Dudley Road, Blakenhall, and has since expanded across the UK with 12 autocentres to date.

That first store has since been joined by others in Bilston, Bloxwich, Cannock, Dunstall (Wolverhampton), Halesfield (Telford)Stafford Park (Telford), Ludlow, Stafford Road in Wolverhampton, Wednesfield and as far afield as Sheffield and Henley On Thames.

Eurofit is recognised for vehicle repair in MOT, servicing, diagnostics, brakes and tyres for all makes of cars and vans.

Stuart Woodward, the Midlands regional manager, has worked for Eurofit Autocentres since 2007.

He says that the company is a forward thinking organisation that has invested in new technology to keep up with advances in the modern car.

Eurofit Autocentres are the local trusted autocentres with one of the largest selection of tyres and MOT slots.

With future franchising prospects and by keeping the roads safer, the Eurofit team has expanded and continues to recruit and deliver exceptional customer services. In doing so Eurofit has invested over £80,000 to build and form their first IMI approved training centre based in Bilston, that training centre opened in late November of 2017. Combining both theory and practical training of vehicle repair and customer service, there are two classrooms and two vehicle workshops for intensive study and training.

Craig Ross, the training manager, at Eurofit Autocentres, said: "The training centre will be a great opportunity to provide essential work-based study along with practical training for existing employees, managers and new recruits joining the team."

Investment in technology and people has enabled Eurofit to maintain its rapid growth, by providing the best possible service to its customers – and it has the testimonials to prove it.

Driving the business forward is a mixture of ambition and having the best people in order to provide a thoroughly professional service.

The well-trained and skilled staff at Eurofit Autocentres are experts in the repair and maintenance of all types of cars and vans, using the latest diagnostic techniques along with branded, quality parts.

The company offers servicing and MoT packages from as little as £69. It is also the main dealer alternative for vehicle fleet servicing and MoT testing.

Thanks to continued investment, Eurofit Autocentres can provide dealer level diagnostics, as well as providing tyres, wheel alignment, exhausts, clutches, cambelts, steering, suspension and air conditioning servicing and maintenance.

Eurofit endeavours to grow their online presence on the website and on social media channels.

The company will be introducing competitions throughout year for customers to take part in and win prizes.

Customers can book online at Eurofit Autocentres and read the latest vehicle related information.

Special offers will be available through the year

The company provides tyres and wheels

Teams at Eurofit have been expanded and recruitment continues to deliver exceptional customer service

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# LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Winner Christine Gwillym with writer Paul Dowswell

## Oh Baby! What a win

A SPOOKY tale of mysterious dreams proved triumphant at the city's second literature festival.

Retired teacher Christine Gwillym was crowned winner of the Express & Star's short story competition after impressing judges with her spine-chilling tale 'The Baby Cried One Last Time'.

The mother-of-two said she was shocked, after revealing she submitted her piece with just 20 minutes to spare before the deadline. Mrs Gwillym, of Great Wyrley, said: "It's lovely, I didn't expect it, it's my first win."

The Express & Star launched the competition as part of this year's festival. Keen writers across the region were called on to put pen to paper and craft an original 1,200 fiction piece based on any theme.

Mrs Gwillym said she was inspired to pull together her piece after encouragement from fellow writing club members Michael Job, Gloria Tizley and Gloria Ponder.

## From war mission to piece of writing

ALMOST 100 acts brought a mix of music, art, theatre and comedy during the city's second Literature Festival. And these were just some of attractions during this popular event.

From helping take supplies to Bosnian war victims to rounding up penguins in the Falklands – Peter Rhodes has certainly had an interesting career. The award-winning journalist spent 30 years with the Express & Star before taking early retirement – although he continued his daily column.

At Wolverhampton Art Gallery he treated the audience to some of the highlights and the odd low point of his career. It took him across the globe including a journey to Sarajevo, aboard a Hercules plane to trapped Bosnian war victims – a trip so dangerous military officials requested he have a one million dollar insurance waiver.

Cummings Your Way is a series of online amusing travelogues.Trio Dan Cummings, Lee David Harris and Martin Davies took the audience on a journey both on screen and with their own anecdotes and observations to the places where they grew up – Stourbridge, Moxley and Wednesfield. Listening to these tales was like sitting in a pub sharing memories of school days and yesteryear with old chums.

A fall from the roof of a house set Martin Davies on a new, safer career path which would see him managing one of the region's most successful singer/songwriters.

Martin had a fascinating tale to tell from his life growing up as a 'working class boy' in Moxley to a music mogul managing Ivor Novello award winner Scott Matthews. His road to success is documented in his book The Million Pound Drop: How I Almost Made It in the Music Industry which Martin shared extracts from.

Ned's Atomic Dustbin frontman Jonn Penney wants to write his memoirs but hit a problem. "I am terrified staring at a blank sheet of paper." So to overcome this, Jonn filled a room with Neds fans and music lovers to get material for his book.

As well as asking questions, the crowd was invited to share stories. In return, Jonn and Ned's guitarist Rat treated the crowd to a string of the band's songs.

Hands up! The audience was keen to get involved in the debate

## Enoch still divides

ENOCH Powell's Rivers of Blood speech still sparks division and outrage on both sides as it remains as controversial today as it was when given 50 years ago.

But all sides came together for a civilised debate at the weekend. As part of Wolverhampton Literature Festival, the event by our sister daily the Express & Star asked panellists and readers for their views of the speech and its legacy ahead of the 50th anniversary in April.

More than 150 people packed into the University of Wolverhampton lecture theatre to discuss the former Wolverhampton MP's speech on Saturday. Chaired by editor Keith Harrison, on the panel were columnist Nigel Hastilow, Labour city councillor and former mayor Milkinder Jaspal, political commentator Nicholas Jones and ex-MP Paul Uppal who represented Powell's former constituency Wolverhampton South West.

One question asked whether the nation would back Powell today – a poll in 1968 found 74 per cent of the population agreed with him. Mr Jaspal replied: "The speech was really about race, immigration is different. I wouldn't imagine people supporting his views today."

But Mr Jones, whose father Clem Jones was editor of the Express & Star 50 years ago and friends with Powell, claimed between 30 and 40 per cent would 'still say Powell was right'.

## Ditch the phone! Will's tirade is a feisty finale

AUTHOR and television personality Will Self gave his unique outlook on modern life as he brought the Wolverhampton Literature Festival to a close.

The award-winning writer was the event's headline act as he discussed his new book and provided a lukewarm assessment of modern technology and its impact on the world. Self's hour-long conversation with university professor Sebastian Groes was the final act in a weekend of events. It was with a knowing irony that Self spoke about his latest work, called Phone, at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, while lambasting the youth of today for constantly being on theirs.

His discomfort with the level of which technology has become part of modern life was a regular theme, as his rants about modern life, interspersed with his own brand of deadpan humour, brought laughs from the audience.

The first thing he did was to tell the audience, when they were asked not to take pictures during the show, "We're all here aren't we?", he asked with a smile – before whipping out a smartphone and complained it had 'displaced us from experience'.

He questioned Google Maps, saying: "If I come out of Wolverhampton train station and I've never been to Wolverhampton, the art gallery is likely to be in the centre of town. I do not need to look online." He added: "I don't want to be mean about young people. They are brilliant at other things but they can't take their phones away." He quipped: "We've all got devices in our pockets and don't need to remember anything."

The author was also challenged over his style from one audience member who asked if he had not included any chapters or paragraphs in Phone, the last in a trilogy of novels, to deliberately provoke readers, to which he implored her to stick with it and offered to 'come round and shampoo your stair carpet' if she did not enjoy it.

Will Self was the event's headline act

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# It's a super trouper of a sunny musical

It's the ultimate feel-good show. Mamma Mia has been described as being the world's sunniest and most exhilarating smash-hit musical. Written by Abba stars Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus the musical is set on a Greek island paradise.

It is a story of love, friendship and identity and is cleverly told through the timeless songs of Abba. The lead character is Sophie Sheridan, who is played by Lucy May Barker.

The action centres around her quest to discover the father she's never known. It follows her story as Sophie's mother comes face to face with three men from her distant romantic past on the eve of a wedding they'll never forget.

The show, which runs at the Wolverhampton Grand from February 6 to 24, is irresistibly funny and has been thrilling audiences all around the world. Now it is coming to Wolverhampton for the first time.

Lucy May is looking forward to that – and says she has a blast playing Sophie each evening.

"Being able to create my own version of it is amazing. I want to transport people away to our little Greek island world. That helps them forget what they've seen before.

"Sophie has been played by others but this is my interpretation. I have so much to do in the show because the story is so full. I just trust the fact that I was chosen for the part and I bring my own confidence to it. There's so much to do in this job."

Knowing me, knowing you – Mamma Mia is hit-packed fun

## UPBEAT

The show is truly upbeat. The title of the musical was taken from the group's 1975 chart-topper Mamma Mia. Benny and Bjorn, who composed the original music for Abba, were involved in the development of the show from the beginning while singer Anni-Frid Lyngstad became involved financially and has attended many of the premieres around the world.

The musical includes such hits as Super Trouper, Lay All Your Love on Me, Dancing Queen, Knowing Me, Knowing You, Take a Chance on Me, Thank You for the Music, Money, Money, Money, The Winner Takes It All, Voulez-Vous, SOS and the title track. It has been seen by more than 60 million people around the world and a film version made in 2008 was a huge hit. That starred Meryl Streep, Colin Firth, Pierce Brosnan, Amanda Seyfried, Christine Baranski, Stellan Skarsgård and Julie Walters.

Lucy May says the show is so resolutely upbeat that it's impossible not to enjoy it. "I think it's hard for everyone not to have a great time. It's such a happy show and so if there's someone in the company who's down, it brings them straight up.

"People often come up with these amazing stories about how it makes them feel – the show is feel good.

It's so upbeat. It gives the audience the chance to escape for a couple of hours. It is an absolute dream come true to play the role. I absolutely love the show and getting to perform it to all the lovely audience around the UK is a feeling like no other.

"I grew up listening to Abba and we had the Abba Gold CD in my mum's car, so I knew almost all the words already when I auditioned which was very handy ha ha! I love going on for Lay All Your Love.

"I love singing that number and from then on I don't leave the stage for the rest of the act which is a total rollercoaster."

The musical opened in the West End at the Prince Edward Theatre on April 6, 1999, and transferred to the Prince of Wales Theatre on June 9, 2004, where it played until September 2012. It has also featured on Broadway and at other cities around the world.

The present British tour has thrilled audiences the length and breadth of the UK and Lucy May says the responses have been remarkable.

"There was a review back at the start saying Mamma Mia should be available on the NHS. I've played it for the whole tour since 2016. With that comes fantastic opportunities for learning and developing the role. I'd like to think I've got better. You practice something eight times a week and different audiences and different places give you different things. We were in Birmingham for 10 weeks and it was great and people are generally happy and cheery in the West Midlands: they're up for a good time.

> *I want to transport people away to our little Greek island world*

"I've been to Wolverhampton before in other shows and the Grand is a beautiful theatre. There are some audiences that are slightly more serious in other parts of the UK, but Birmingham and Wolverhampton. But these are cities I love.

"To do big scale musicals that are uplifting and crowd-pleasing and positive is a gift.

"As a kid I did Annie and that really gave me the bug. Most of the people on stage or in the company had done it as kids, they'd done that in theatre school. So to go from doing that as a child to doing it as a professional in adult life is a dream. I try to always remember that. Not a lot of people have the opportunity to turn their childhood passion turning into their life passion – I'm one of the lucky ones."

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

A scene from Matthew Bourne's Cinderella

# Cinderella dances in Blitz battered London

AUDIENCES have been laughing along to a star-studded pantomime production of Cinderella for several weeks at Birmingham Hippodrome but a very different, darker vision of the fairy tale is arriving at the venue next week.

Choreographer and leader of the New Adventures dance company Matthew Bourne, who thrilled audiences at the Hippodrome a year ago with his glamorous cinematic-styled version of The Red Shoes, has revived his take on Cinderella.

It is set in a Blitz-ruined wartime London where the threat of death has ignited a new age of hedonism as our heroine embarks on a dizzying romance with an RAF pilot. Bourne's stylish vision, which was screened by BBC TV during the festive season from London's Sadler's Wells Theatre, is a revival of a production first performed 21 years ago and last revived a decade ago. It is a radical reworking that draws on a real life tragedy when popular London nightclub the Café de Paris took a direct hit from a Luftwaffe bomb.

The production keeps the magnificent Prokofiev score from the traditional ballet, in recorded form, and has potent imagery that often recalls Powell and Pressburger's classic 1946 wartime fantasy A Matter of Life and Death, about a pilot who briefly cheats death.

Matthew Bourne's Cinderella is staged from Tuesday to Saturday. See birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

# Brief return to Rep for classic romance

One of the most acclaimed theatrical productions of recent years returns to Birmingham in February.

Kneehigh's production of Noël Coward's Brief Encounter, adapted and directed by Emma Rice, will be staged at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from tomorrow (Friday) until February 17.

Coward's Brief Encounter is one of the most haunting love stories ever and is particularly fondly remembered due David Lean's classic British movie from 1945 starring Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard.

A chance meeting in a railway station café brings together housewife Laura and doctor Alec and their casual friendship turns into a heart-breaking love story.

Both the play and the film inspired acclaimed director Emma Rice. She says: "Brief Encounter combines the romance of cinema with all that live theatre can offer; magic, passion, surprise, suggestion and naughtiness.

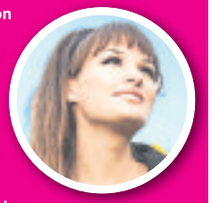
" I carry this show in my heart and couldn't be more excited to return to this heart-pounding production and bring it back to Birmingham. Radical and romantic, nostalgic but oh, so relevant – let passions ignite!"

This award-winning production of Brief Encounter premiered at Birmingham Repertory Theatre in 2007 winning the hearts of audiences and critics alike. It subsequently triumphed in the West End, toured the globe and received dazzling reviews on Broadway.

The cast will feature Jim Sturgeon as Alec and Isabel Pollen as Laura. Brief Encounter will be directed by Emma Rice and designed by Neil Murray.

For more information see birmingham-rep.co.uk or for tickets call 0121 236 4455.

# Japanese drums and Beethoven



**Japanese taiko percussion group Kodo perform new work Evolution at Symphony Hall on Monday. Classical highlights at the Birmingham venue include Scottish violin virtuoso Nicola Benedetti, pictured, on Tuesday. She performs Beethoven's Fourth Symphony and his Violin Concerto with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. The CBSO conducted by Constantinos Carydis perform Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition on Wednesday.**

# Sub Pop's latest signing at the NAC

Californian singer-songwriter Jesca Hoop, who is currently based in Manchester, is in concert at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton on Monday. She has released five studio albums since she was encouraged to start her musical career by Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan, and has worked with Guy Garvey and as a backing singer for Peter Gabriel. She recently signed to the Seattle-based Sub Pop label.

Also coming to the NAC are the Jam-like Watford outfit The Spitfires on Saturday. American punk veterans the Dead Boys are at Digbeth's O2 Institute tomorrow (Friday). Reggae star Macka B is back on home turf for a gig at Bilston's Robin 2 on Saturday. Jazz and reggae singer Zara McFarlane is at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Wednesday.

# SATURDAY'S TV FEBRUARY 3



## CHOICE

Jim Sturgess

**Hard Sun (BBC1, 9.30pm)**

A night jogger is murdered and brutalised in his home, and when Renko realises the victim is a man from her past, she realises his death has dire personal implications for both her and Daniel. Armed with knowledge of Renko's traumatic history, Hicks understands the significance of the man's death, but with the government breathing down his neck to secure the Hard Sun dossier, he once again finds himself at odds with her. Meanwhile, Daniel goes on the run after inadvertently claiming the Hard Sun flashdrive, but fleeing places him firmly in Grace Morrigan's cross-hairs. Pre-apocalyptic crime thriller, starring Jim Sturgess, Agyness Deyn, Nikki Amuka-Bird and Owain Arthur.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Six Nations Preview. **1.45** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Scotland (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.15** Live Six Nations Rugby Union.

**7.00 BBC News.**

**7.10 Regional Programme.**

**7.15 All Together Now.** The musical talent show continues, as Rob Beckett invites more singers to step on-stage for a chance to win a £50,000 cash prize. Facing a 100-strong panel of judges, the stars must not only deliver the performance of a lifetime, but also encourage the panellists to join in too. The more judges each singer manages to win over, the better their chances of proceeding to the grand final.

**8.20 Casualty.** New COO Avis Baxter arrives to find Holby in chaos. The hospital is at capacity, and a queue of ambulances laden with deteriorating patients is only making matters worse. Alicia is horrified when Ethan tows the management line, stating no more locums or nurses will be made available, and when his decisions result in a serious case of sepsis being missed, and breaks the rules to get the patient - an injured chef - into resus. Meanwhile, eager new F1 Bea faces a trial by fire in the ED after offloading her 'uninteresting' patients on old medical school pal Rash, and Charlie's plans to wine and dine Duffy on their anniversary fall short of the mark.

**9.10 BBC News**; Weather.

**9.30 Hard Sun.** The brutal murder of a night jogger has dire personal implications for both Renko and Daniel, and places Hicks at odds with a colleague he has come to respect.

**10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Burnley v Manchester City, Manchester United v Huddersfield Town and Arsenal v Everton; National Lottery Update.

**11.55 The NFL Show.** Mark Chapman is joined by Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to look ahead to Super Bowl LII.

**12.25 Film:** Ill Manors. (2012) **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.10** The Wonder of Animals. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch. **7.45** Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch. **8.00** The Dengineers. **8.30** Deadly Top 10. (R) **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Robot Wars. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. (R) **1.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Spain v Great Britain. **3.30** Nigel Slater's Middle East. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! (R)

**6.00 Hugh's Wild West.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's West Country tour continues as he visits the Somerset Levels, where he witnesses the natural spectacle of huge flocks of starlings swirling in the sky as they come in to roost for the winter. He also discovers how the Levels' dedicated volunteers have helped to maintain crucial reedbeds, which have now become havens for rare bitterns and great white egrets. Plus, Hugh observes the large blue butterfly, which has been brought back to the region from near-extinction, and meets nature enthusiast Stephen Hembury, who has been capturing local wildlife on film, but is having little luck recording elusive hares.

**7.00 A House Through Time.** David Olusoga concludes the house's story, revealing how it was once almost demolished, then became a home for creative people and meeting the current owner. Last in the series. (R)

**8.00 Dad's Army.** Mainwaring is accused of leaving a light burning in the church hall during a blackout, and receives a summons to appear in court. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

**8.30 Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs.** Paul Murton embarks on a journey from Lairg on Loch Shin to Lochinver and finally, to the summit of Suilven – one of the most distinctive mountains in Scotland.

**9.00 QI XL.** Jason Manford, Jimmy Carr and Victoria Coren Mitchell join Alan Davies and Sandi Toksvig for an extended edition of the unconventional quiz.

**9.45 Live at the Apollo.** (R)

**10.30 Film: The Talented Mr Ripley.** (1999)

**12.40 Film:** Albatross. (2011) **2.05** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Dancing on Ice. (R) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30 Film:** Evan Almighty. (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell. **3.15** Catchphrase. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

**6.00 Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.05 ITV News**; Weather.

**6.15 New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill introduces more viewer-submitted comedy clips, including a drone's destructive encounter with an errant baseball, and a photo-shy seal.

**6.40 Take Me Out.** Men from Leeds, Dublin, Edinburgh and Swansea seek the approval of the 30 single ladies sitting on Paddy McGuinness's panel.

**8.00 The Voice UK.** The Blind Auditions enter their fifth week, as Will.i.am, Jennifer Hudson, Olly Murs and Tom Jones reassemble to assess the singing skills of more would-be stars. Emma Willis ushers the contestants on-stage where, yet again, the coaches must decide whether they would like to back each performer based on the power of their voice, rather than their appearance. Only once a coach decides to support the singer are they permitted to turn their chair around, and any of the contestants chosen could be in with a chance of securing a recording contract with Polydor.

**9.30 Through the Keyhole.** Keith Lemon infiltrates the homes of another three mystery celebrities, and challenges Shane Richie, Rachel Riley and Alex James to guess "who habitates in a house like this".

**10.30 ITV News**; Weather.

**10.45 Film: Lethal Weapon.** (1987) Action thriller, with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

**12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.45** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.25** Coast vs Country. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun. (R) **4.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **5.35** The Supervet. (R)

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the landscape of north-west Portugal as they embark on a voyage down the Rio Douro. It's a journey that combines two of their favourite things – water and wine – as they follow the route taken by Yorkshire-born port entrepreneur Baron Forrester, and visit some stunning wine estates. The couple also stop off at the Factory House, a traditional English gentlemen's club that lies in the heart of the city of Porto. (R)

**8.00 Village of the Year with Penelope Keith.** Five villages from the Central Zone, which reaches from the west of Ireland to the Midlands, compete for a place in the final, as judges Alex Langlands, Patrick Grant and Juliet Sargeant assess their merits.

**9.00 Film: Suffragette.** (2015) Premiere. A woman joins a campaign to gain the right to vote in 1912. She and her allies find their peaceful protests accomplishing little in the face of an unwavering state, so resort to increasingly violent measures, risking everything they have in the pursuit of political justice. Period drama, starring Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Anne-Marie Duff and Meryl Streep.

**11.10 Film: About Time.** (2013) A man learns he has the ability to travel through time and uses the power to improve his love life. Romantic fantasy comedy, with Domhnall Gleeson and Rachel McAdams.

**1.20** The Last Leg. With guest Stephen Fry. (R) **2.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Grace and Trigger's plan backfires. (R) **4.20** Coast vs Country. A woman seeks a new life in north Wales. (R) **5.15** Location, Location, Location. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.40** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** The A-Team. (R) **2.00** The A-Team. (R) **3.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.00** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **5.55** 5 News Weekend.

**6.00 The Wonderful World of Puppies.** The canine development documentary continues by exploring how puppies use their key senses – smell, touch, sight and hearing – to absorb information about their new surroundings, and crucially, make a start on broadening their horizons. Six-week-old golden retriever Dakin demonstrates how his ever-developing brain helps improve his stature and coordination, and a litter of bull mastiff pups are left baffled by a mirror. A cocker spaniel destined to become a working dog illustrates how selective breeding can encourage desirable abilities, and a corgi with a big future as a show-dog must first overcome a few crucial hurdles.

**7.00 Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind-Ups.** Joe Pasquale showcases one last selection of pranks, with laughs coming at the expense of Justin Timberlake and Louis Walsh, among others. Last in the series.

**8.00 Blind Date.** A white witch from Preston seeks to cast her spell on three eligible bachelors, and former military man Dean from Wiltshire sets out to find his dream girl. Last in the series.

**9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Sheffield United, Aston Villa v Burton Albion and Leeds United v Cardiff City.

**9.55 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Bristol Rovers v Shrewsbury Town and Plymouth Argyle v Blackburn Rovers.

**10.25 The X-Files.** (R)

**11.15 The X-Files.** (R)

**12.10** SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** Vampire Academy. (2014) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Great Artists. (R) **5.35** House Busters. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean **8.00** Nature's Miniature Miracles: Natural World **9.00** Spiral **11.05** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.10** Elvis: That's Alright Mama 60 Years On **1.10** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean **2.10** Nature's Miniature Miracles: Natural World **3.10** Close

**ITV2**

**12.00** Take Me Out **1.15** Totally You've Been Framed! Gold **2.20 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **3.20** FYI Daily **3.25 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **4.00 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **5.45 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00 Film:** 22 Jump Street (2014) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** 22 Jump Street (2014) **11.15** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.10** Release the Hounds **2.05** Ibiza Weekender **3.00** Teleshopping

**ITV3**

**2.55 Film:** Columbo: Dagger of the Mind (1972) **4.55** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Foyle's War **1.00** On the Buses **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4**

**1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's meetings Sandown Park, Musselburgh, and Wetherby. **4.00 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **5.50** Storage Wars **6.45** Live World Boxing Super Series. Murat Gassiev v Yunier Dorticos. **11.30 Film:** Pale Rider (1985) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** Pale Rider (1985) **1.50** The Professionals **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**11.30** The Goldbergs **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011) **10.55** Gogglebox **1.05** Naked Attraction **2.10** Rude Tube **3.05** Gogglebox **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube

**Film4**

**11.00** Dunston Checks In (1996) **1.00** Johnny English (2003) **2.45** Carry On Cleo (1964) **4.35** The Family Stone (2005) Festive comedy drama, with Sarah Jessica Parker. **6.45** The River Wild (1994) **9.00** The Inbetweeners 2 (2014) The awkward teenagers find university does not live up to their expectations, and go to Australia in search of adventure. Comedy sequel, starring Simon Bird and James Buckley. **10.55** The Hallow (2015) Premiere. Horror, starring Joseph Mawle. **12.50** Troll Hunter (2010) **3.05** Close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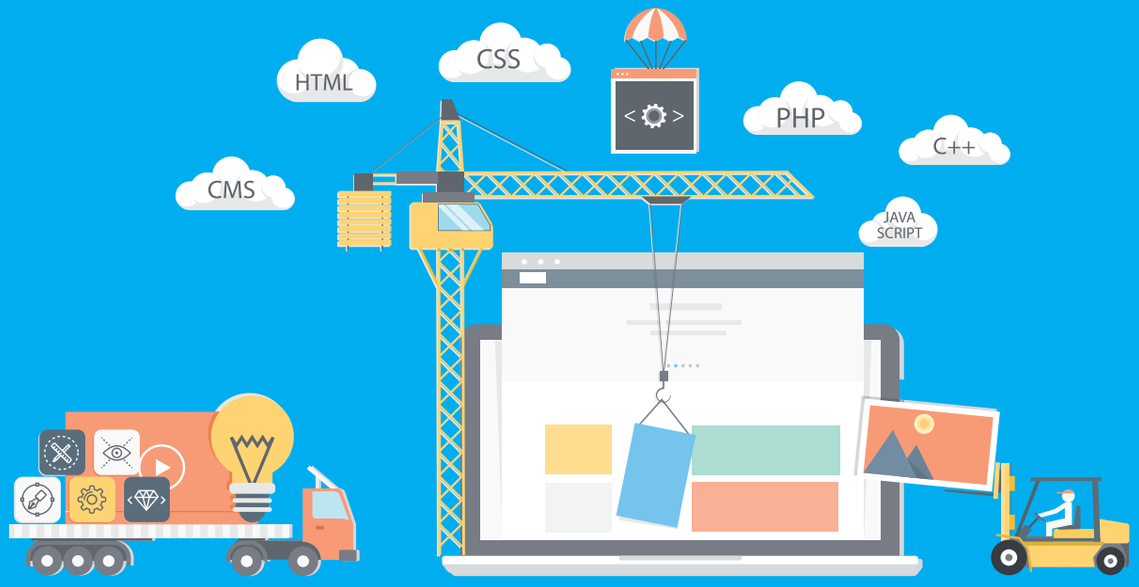


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MNA DIGITAL

## CHOICE

Shaun Evans

**Endeavour (ITV, 8pm)**

New series. The newly promoted Detective Sergeant Morse investigates when a famous international thief tries to steal a Faberge egg from an auction. The case leads to the gruesome murders of an academic and a gangster, and Morse is convinced the deaths are the work of the same man. As he struggles with his new responsibilities, he finds himself forced to mentor a younger partner (played by Poldark's Lewis Peek). Shaun Evans, Roger Allam, Anton Lesser, James Bradshaw, Sean Rigby, Dakota Blue Richards, Abigail Thaw, Caroline O'Neill and Sara Vickers star.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** The Truth About Getting Fit. (R) **2.15** Wonders of the Moon. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Songs of Praise. **4.20 Film:** The Proposal. (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds.

**6.05 BBC News.**

**6.20 Regional Programme.**

**6.30 Countryfile.** Reports on winter from around the country. Matt Baker meets a Dorset man championing local winter produce, and Anita Rani discovers the therapeutic benefit of making jewellery. Steve Brown learns to drive a team of huskies, Joe Crowley meets a man with a lifelong passion for deer, Adam Henson visits a farm where gathering the sheep is a risky business, and Ellie Harrison learns about foxes. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**7.30 Still Open All Hours.** Granville and Gastric come up with a romantic plan to persuade Madge and Mavis to stay. However, it involves spending a little more money than the shopkeeper is comfortable with.

**8.00 Call the Midwife.** Nurse Crane and Trixie investigate when a mother abandons her children at the clinic. When the woman is sent to a neurologist, the results are devastating for the whole family.

**9.00 McMafia.** Alex is forced to admit the truth as peace negotiations in Istanbul get underway between Semiyon and his enemies, but he does not realise he is about to suffer a further betrayal.

**10.00 BBC News.**

**10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Action from this afternoon's Premier League fixtures – Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield and Crystal Palace v Newcastle United at Selhurst Park.

**11.15 American Football: Super Bowl LII.** New England Patriots v Philadelphia Eagles (Kick-off 11.30pm). Mark Chapman presents coverage of the showpiece match.

**3.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.55** BBC News.

## BBC2

**7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **7.35** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. **1.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **1.30** Orson Welles: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.10 Film:** Jane Eyre. (1943) **3.45** The Crane Gang. (R) **4.45** Elise Christie: In from the Cold. **5.15** Ski Sunday.

**6.00 Six Nations Rugby Special.** Italy v England. John Inverdale presents action from the concluding match of the opening round of fixtures, held at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

**7.00 New York: America's Busiest City.** Ade Adepitan, Anita Rani, Ant Anstead and Dan Snow take a closer look at one of the most powerful cities in the world, focusing on transport links in the first edition. (R)

**8.00 Yellowstone: The Blazing Summer.** Summer in Yellowstone brings a new challenge for the beavers as their river dries up, while the wolves have a surprising strategy to keep their pups fed. Last in the series. (R)

**9.00 Dragons' Den.** The panel assesses the profit-making potential of more business ideas, including a range of language-learning children's books and skin care products made out of hemp.

**10.00 The Mash Report.** Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)

**10.30 Insert Name Here.** Miles Jupp, Kate Williams, Sally Phillips and Roisin Conaty join captains Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer Sue Perkins' questions about famous people who share a name. (R)

**11.00 Cleverman.** Boondee becomes the first public victim of the sinister "Process", Charlotte suspects there is something terribly wrong with her pregnancy, and Koen is reunited with an old friend.

**11.55 Women's Six Nations Highlights.** Action from the opening round of fixtures, which featured Wales v Scotland at Parc Eirias, France v Ireland at Stade Ernest Wallon, and Italy v England at Stadio Mirabello.

**12.25 Film:** Yves Saint Laurent. (2014) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs the Sinister Six. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** River Monsters. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **11.30** The Voice UK. (R) **1.00** ITV News; Weather. **1.10** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **1.40** The Cruise: Return to the Mediterranean. (R) **2.15** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v England (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.40** ITV News; Weather.

**6.00 Dancing on Ice.** Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present the next stage as the contest reaches the halfway point, with nine celebrities still in the running to be crowned this year's champion. However, they still need to impress judges Jayne Torvill, Christopher Dean, Ashley Banjo and Jason Gardiner with their talents to avoid the skate-off.

**8.00 Endeavour.** New series. The detective investigates when a famous international thief tries to steal a Faberge egg from an auction - but the case leads to two gruesome murders.

**10.00 ITV News**; Weather.

**10.15 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)

**11.15 Next of Kin.** Mona is released from custody and agrees to become a tasked witness, which means she will a covert source for the police in their attempts to bring in her nephew Danny. However, the fallout from her actions at home is disastrous and her marriage comes under more strain than ever. Thriller about a doctor who is drawn into a tangle of betrayal, conspiracy and murder after her brother's kidnapping brings buried family secrets to light, starring Archie Panjabi, Jack Davenport, Claire Skinner and Viveik Kalra. (R)

**12.15** Great Art. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **6.15** The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35 Film:** Never Been Kissed. (1999) Romantic comedy, with Drew Barrymore and Michael Vartan. **4.40 Film:** Shark Tale. (2004) Animated comedy, with the voice of Will Smith.

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Posh Pawn.** The return of the programme offering an insight into the world of high-end pawnbroking. James takes a ride around London in an eye-catching supercar, with an aspiring fitness guru who's looking for £80,000. With her eyes on a round-the-world cruise costing £30,000, an adventurous retiree wants to sell a collection of handbags and jewellery. A car enthusiast contacts memorabilia expert Lawrence about a helmet that once belonged to land speed record-breaker Donald Campbell, and James faces a dilemma when he gets an offer for one of his favourite impulse buys. (R)

**8.00 The Biggest Little Railway in the World.** The model train is only halfway through its journey to Inverness, but has to drive through bad weather and harsh terrain with the volunteers due to head home. Last in the series.

**9.00 SAS: Who Dares Wins.** The seven recruits who have made it to the final stage of the contest face the most gruelling challenge so far – which only one of them will complete. Last in the series.

**10.00 Maltese: The Mafia Detective.** New series. Italian crime drama following a Sicilian detective who is drawn into a struggle with the Mafia after he witnesses the murder of his best friend and his fiancee.

**11.15 Film: Elizabeth.** (1998) Elizabeth I's rise to the throne is threatened as enemies within the court and overseas plot to bring about her downfall. Historical drama, with Cate Blanchett and Geoffrey Rush.

**1.25** The World's Most Expensive Food. (R) **2.20** The Supervet. (R) **3.15** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. (R) **4.10** KOTV Boxing Weekly.

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.15** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.25** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.35** Wissper. (R) **6.45** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.50** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.55** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.20** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Milkshake!: Paw Patrol. **8.30** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.50** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits. (R) **1.55 Film:** Johnny English Reborn. (2011) Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson. **3.55** 5 News Weekend. **4.00 Film:** The Last Airbender. (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Noah Ringer. **5.00** 5 News Update. **5.05 Film:** The Last Airbender. (2010) Concluded.

**6.00 Film: Bulletproof Monk.** (2003) A mysterious Tibetan monk is entrusted with protecting an ancient and mystical scroll. As modern-day Nazis seek out the relic in a bid to resurrect the Third Reich, the monk searches for a suitable successor to take over his task – and a pickpocket is the unlikely choice. Martial arts thriller, starring Chow Yun-Fat, Seann William Scott, Jaime King, Victoria Smurfit and Karel Roden. Edited for violence.

**8.00 Film: Batman Begins.** (2005) Billionaire Bruce Wayne travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice, consumed with rage over his parents' murder. Trained by a secret society, he hones his fighting skills and returns to his home city of Gotham on a mission to rid it of crime and corruption in the guise of a masked vigilante. Comic-book adventure, exploring the origins of the Dark Knight, with Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Cillian Murphy, Gary Oldman and Katie Holmes.

**9.00 5 News Update.**

**9.05 Film: Batman Begins.** (2005) Concluded.

**10.50 Film: The Punisher.** (2004)

**1.05** The X-Files. (R) **2.45** SuperCasino. **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Cuba with Simon Reeve **9.00** Scotland's Vital Spark: The Clyde Puffer **10.00** Arena: Stanley and His Daughters **11.15** Stanley Spencer: The Colours of the Clyde **11.45** The Story of Maths **1.45** Cuba with Simon Reeve **2.45** Art, Passion & Power: The Story of the Royal Collection **3.45** Close

**ITV2**

**11.40** Take Me Out **1.00** The Voice UK **2.30 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **3.30** FYI Daily **3.35 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **4.10 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.55 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping

**ITV3**

**11.50** Lewis **1.50** A Touch of Frost **3.50** Inspector Morse **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **11.00 Film:** The Constant Gardener (2005) **1.30** Blue Murder **2.45** George and Mildred

**ITV4**

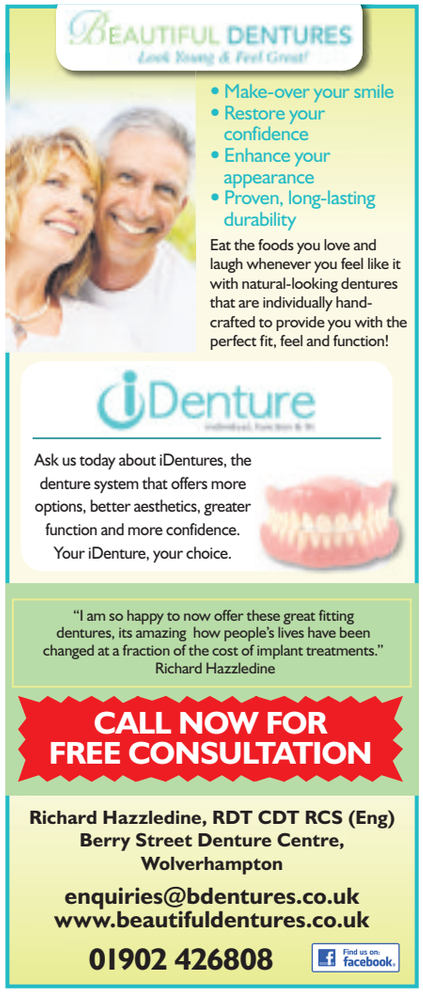
**11.10** Pawn Stars **1.00 Film:** Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05 Film:** Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **3.15 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **5.05 Film:** Thunderball (1965) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10 Film:** Thunderball (1965) **7.50** Hornblower **10.00 Film:** Source Code (2011) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10 Film:** Source Code (2011) **11.55 Film:** The Gauntlet (1977) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00 Film:** The Gauntlet (1977) **2.05** The Professionals **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**1.05** Toy Story Toons: Small Fry **1.15** The Big Bang Theory: Go Dating **5.45** The Big Bang Theory **6.45 Film:** The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **9.00** Celebs Go Dating **10.00 Film:** This Means War (2012) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory **1.00** Celebs Go Dating **2.00** First Dates

**Film4**

**1.00** Catch That Kid (2004) **2.55** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.35** Dante's Peak (1997) **6.45** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) **9.00** No Escape (2015) **11.05** Queen and Country (2014) **1.20** Atonement (2007) **3.45** Close



# PICK OF THE WEEK

## FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**
**The Silence of the Lambs, Channel 5, 10pm**
Trainee FBI agent Clarice Starling is sent to interview an imprisoned psychopath with a taste for eating his victims. The inmate offers to help catch a serial killer who is holding a politician's daughter hostage - but to learn what he knows, Clarice has to engage in his dangerous mind games. Jonathan Demme's Oscar-winning thriller, based on Thomas Harris's novel, starring Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Scott Glenn and Ted Levine. (1991)

**TUESDAY**
**The Devil's Teardrop, Channel 5, 3.15pm**
A serial killer terrorises Washington DC, with a ransom note the only clue to his identity. A handwriting analyst agrees to help the FBI with their investigation, but also has to deal with fighting his ex-wife for custody of their children. Crime drama based on Jeffery Deaver's novel, starring Tom Everett Scott and Natasha Henstridge. (2010)

Looper, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

**WEDNESDAY**
**Midnight Stallion, Channel 5, 3.15pm**
A 15-year-old girl and her parents are desperate to save their struggling farm, and when they discover a wild stallion in a nearby forest they begin to wonder if it could be the answer to their prayers. Drama, starring Kris Kristofferson. (2013)

**THURSDAY**
**Abducted: The Carlina White Story, Channel 5, 3.15pm**
A couple take their three-week-old baby to a hospital for treatment, but she is snatched by a woman desperate for a child. She raises the infant as her own for years, but as the girl grows up, she begins to suspect the truth and resolves to investigate her kidnapping and find her parents. Fact-based drama, starring Keke Palmer and Aunjanue Ellis. (2012)

**FRIDAY**
**Looper, BBC2, 11.05pm**
A hitman employed to kill people who have been sent back in time finds his latest target is his future self. Sci-fi thriller, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Bruce Willis. (2012)

## Will the truth still be out there for Mulder and Scully?

Bringing shows back from the dead is all the rage these days – and it's probably all Doctor Who's fault.

The much-loved sci-fi show was axed in 1989, was revived in 1996 for a lacklustre TV movie and then disappeared again until 2005 when it made a triumphant return; it's now one of the BBC's biggest hits, with the next run set to shake things up when, for the first time, a woman (Broadchurch star Jodie Whittaker) will play the Time Lord.

In May 2017, David Lynch's surreal Twin Peaks returned after a 26-year hiatus, but before that, The X Files ended its 14-year exile with a well-received 10th season.

When we caught up with its main characters – FBI agents Mulder and Scully – the duo had been living separate lives for years; she was working at her medical practice, while he ploughing his own furrow. They were initially brought back together by a cable TV host who wanted them to help him expose a sinister organisation he believed had the power to control the American public.

What came as a big surprise was that Channel 5 bagged the chance to broadcast it in this country rather than the BBC, who had the rights to the original run, or Sky.

Prior to it being shown in the UK, some speculated that perhaps the big guns hadn't wanted the show because it had lost its sparkle. However, their fears were soon dispelled – despite some critics being unkind, fans were thrilled by each episode.

Now it's back for a new run of 10 tales, but there's some sadness attached to that – Gillian Anderson has already announced that she's played Scully for the final time; even if The X Files returns, she will no longer be a part of it – so enjoy her appearance here while you can.

Really, her decision to return to the programme that made her name was something of a surprise. In recent years she's become highly sought after on both sides of the Atlantic thanks to acclaimed performances in The Fall, Great Expectations, The Crimson Petal and the White, War and Peace and Hannibal; Anderson no longer needs the boost to her career that The X Files once gave her.

She is, however, in the thick of things during the first episode, which begins when Mulder finds Scully unconscious on the floor of their FBI office.

It's discovered that her brain is in a frenzy of activity, and when she eventually awakes, Scully claims she has had a premonition that suggest the end of the world is nigh – and the only person who can prevent that happening is their mysterious son William.

Will the duo find him? What will he look like, and is his mother right about his ability to save the planet?

We don't know yet, but there's another question that needs to be answered: Anderson may have quit, but will her co-star, David Duchovny, be willing to return?

Nobody knows, but the truth is out there...

Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny, The X-Files, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

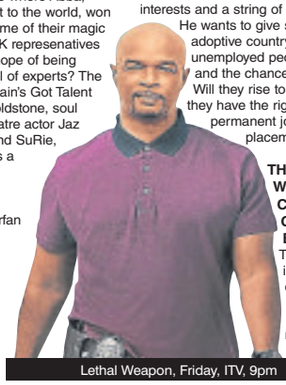
# BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**
**My Return from IS - Panorama**
**BBC1, 8.30pm**
The programme tells the story of a British woman who is back in the UK after living with so-called Islamic State in Syria for more than two years before managing to escape with the help of her mother. She was arrested, but after extensive debriefing by counterterrorist officers the CPS decided there were no grounds for prosecution. 'Fatima' tells Panorama reporter Peter Taylor how the group has hijacked Islam, with men acting as cannon fodder and women used for cooking, cleaning and giving birth.

**TUESDAY**
**The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds: All Girls**
**Channel 4, 8pm**
They are one of the most powerful forces in the universe who can get whatever they want with one look. They are five year old girls, and as this one-off reminds us, they are not to be underestimated, as Eva, Jet, Miylah and Zaina prove. The familiar faces are joined by a fresh cast of new girls, while child development experts Dr Elizabeth Kilbey and Laverne Antrobus watch the drama unfold and provide insight into their behaviour. Cameras reveal how the girls see themselves - and the role of women - in 2018.

**WEDNESDAY**
**Eurovision: You Decide**
**BBC2, 7.30pm**
The Brighton Dome has an important place in Eurovision history – it's the venue where Abba, arguably the contest's biggest gift to the world, won in 1974 with Waterloo. But will some of their magic rub off on this year's would-be UK represenatives as they take to the stage in the hope of being chosen by the public and a panel of experts? The acts battling it out are former Britain's Got Talent contestant Asanda, girl group Goldstone, soul singer Jaz Ellington, musical theatre actor Jaz Ellington, DJ and singer RAYA and SuRie, who has previously performed as a backing vocalist at Eurovision. Meanwhile, another Swedish champion, 2015 winner MÅns Zelmerl´w, joins Eurovision superfan Mel Giedroyc on hosting duties.

**My Millionaire Migrant Boss**
**Channel 4, 9pm**
It's been claimed that many immigrants to the UK end up taking jobs that Brits don't want, but is this work ethic the reason why they are three-times more likely to become millionaires than people who were born here? Liverpool-based Palestinian Marwan Koukash would seem to be proof that hard work does pay off. He arrived in 1976 with just £200 and is now a multi-millionaire with several business interests and a string of prize-winning racehorses. He wants to give something back to his adoptive country by offering four unemployed people a two-week work trial and the chance to be mentored by him. Will they rise to the challenge and prove they have the right attitude to get a permanent job at the end of the placement?


Lethal Weapon, Friday, ITV, 9pm

**THURSDAY**
**Winter Olympics: Countdown to the Games**
**BBC2, 7pm**
The funding of winter sports in the UK has more than doubled since the Winter Olympics in Sochi in 2014, and it's hoped that will be reflected in Team GB's performance this year – their medal target for the games in PyeongChang, South Korea, is between eight and 12. On the eve of the opening ceremony, Clare Balding meets some of the athletes who are hoping to contribute to that tally including short track speed skater Elise Christie, who is looking for redemption after the heartbreak of being disqualified three time in Sochi, and skeleton bob star Lizzy Yarnold, who aims to become the first Briton to retain a Winter Olympic gold medal. But as well as looking ahead to the Games, Balding will also be learning more about the host country – including the impact of the rising tensions between neighbouring North Korea and the USA.

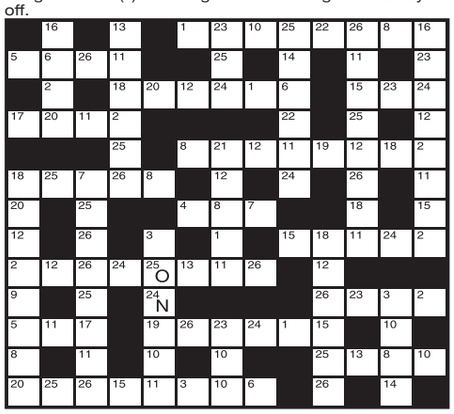
**FRIDAY**
**Lethal Weapon**
**ITV, 9pm**
Although Lethal Weapon (the films, as well as this TV series) are primarily action dramas, they have always had a strong comedy element. And this comes to the fore this week as Thomas Lennon's Leo Getz returns, which pushes Murtaugh (Damon Wayans) and Riggs (Clayne Crawford) to up their banter game. Tonight's story follows the cops as they investigate a death that occurred moments before the victim won a fortune on a horse race.

# BRAIN GYM

No.465

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 14 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3 | 16 |
| 4 | 17 |
| 5 | 18 |
| 6 | 19 |
| 7 | 20 |
| 8 | 21 |
| 9 | 22 |
| 10 | 23 |
| 11 | 24 N |
| 12 | 25 O |
| 13 | 26 |

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | V | H | T | R | D | O | S | Z | K | N | F | W |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| E | Y | C | L | J | G | P | X | M | Q | B | I | U |

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

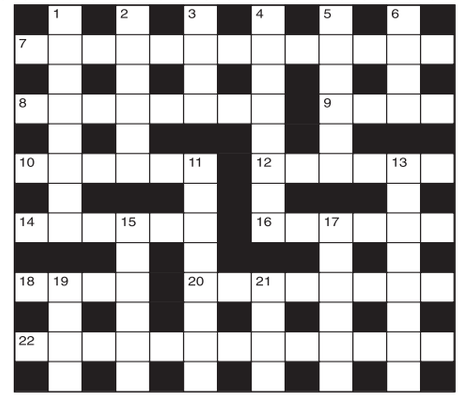
### Cryptic Clues:

**Across**

**7.** Even the nudist will require this! (4,9)
**8.** Hero-worship adroitly adjusted (8)
**9.** Some of them matched a favourite of the Janeites (4)
**10.** Business proposition is far from tough (6)
**12. & 14Ac.** A person of corresponding significance (6-6)
**14.** See 12 Across
**16.** Takes off the narrow pieces (6)
**18.** That is about five hundred and fifty unemployed (4)
**20.** Can start to do business somehow (8)
**22.** Shouldered the burden before nightfall and won (7,3,3)

**Down**

**1.** Artist who was an observer of the country (8)
**2.** Fastened up impressively? (6)
**3.** See 19 Down
**4.** Engineer gets bikes and uses the scrap again (8)
**5.** A track made by mountaineers (6)
**6.** Check the flower-holder (4)
**11.** They cease to exist if they're easy to find (8)
**13.** Particular pieces rewritten by nearly everybody (8)
**15.** He gets nothing in an attempt to produce an abstract idea (6)
**17.** An unusual spread had a jarring effect (6)
**19. & 3Dn.** Exhausted dropout (8)
**21.** Dramatic pieces following the gospels (4)



### Quick Clues:

**Across**

**7.** Blameworthy (13)
**8.** Music writer (8)
**9.** Departed (4)
**10.** Gambol (6)
**12.** Sermonize (6)
**14.** Abut (6)
**16.** Seemly (6)
**18.** Heroic (4)
**20.** Secretly (8)
**22.** Inclusive (13)

**Down**

**1.** Consumed (8)
**2.** Drive (6)
**3.** In this way (4)
**4.** Brave (8)
**5.** Unmarried (6)
**6.** Open tart (4)
**11.** Ponder (8)
**13.** Private meeting (8)
**15.** Fill (6)
**17.** Fondle (6)
**19.** Indigent (4)
**21.** Lament (4)

## Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | | 4 | | | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| | 9 | | 5 | 6 | | | | |
| | | | | 2 | | 6 | | |
| 5 | 8 | 2 | | | 4 | 1 | | |
| | | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| | | 1 | | | | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| | | 7 | | 5 | | 4 | | |
| | 6 | | | 4 | 2 | | 1 | |
| 9 | 5 | | | | 1 | | 3 | |

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Apes; 8 Communique; 9 Feathers; 10 Post; 12 Stroke; 14 Spruce; 15 Cinema; 17 Rating; 18 Gnat; 19 Pastiche; 21 Plantation; 22 Side. Down: 2 Pedestrian; 3 Scot; 4 Ampere; 5 Curses; 6 Dispirit; 7 Rest; 11 Second-hand; 13 Overtone; 16 Appear; 17 Rustic; 18 Gaps; 20 Inns.
QUICK - Across: 1 Toss; 8 Earthquake; 9 Pretence; 10 Gape; 12 Ignite; 14 Driver; 15 Foster; 17 Brewer; 18 Tsar; 19 Consider; 21 Disappoint; 22 Amen. Down: 2 Outrageous; 3 Sent; 4 Orange; 5 Shield; 6 Quagmire; 7 Mete; 11 Preference; 13 Interval; 16 Recipe; 17 Bandit; 18 Tidy; 20 Iota.

## Quiz

1. Goths were divided into Visigoths and which other group?
2. What was founded in 1903 as the first English garden city?
3. In Christianity, what are the highest order of angels called?
4. Which poet won the 1948 Nobel prize for literature?
5. Which clan conspired with the English in the Glencoe massacre?
6. Where was the British Unknown Soldier buried in 1920?
7. Of what is stinkhorn a species?
8. Which incendiary liquid is a mixture of naphthenic and palmitic acids?
9. What is the oldest British university?
10. What is the hybrid between a blackberry and a raspberry called?

**Last week's solutions:**

**Quiz:** 1 Paradise Regained; 2 The Velvet Underground; 3 Dwight Eisenhower; 4 New Hebrides; 5 Prime minister (of Ireland); 6 Jeremy Bates; 7 Black Widow; 8 Carol Ann Duffy; 9 Dr Graham Leonard; 10 Nigeria.

**Niner:** SNOWFIELD

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

**7231485** gives a rhyme,
**9385** gives a composition,
**4689** gives a German song.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |

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Whatever place you're into

# Enjoy being left to your own Devizes

THERE was a time when the medieval market town of Devizes held a particular spot in weary travellers' affections.

Many people still remember, before motorways and ring roads headed west, this special little place being a landmark for holidaymakers heading to and from Cornwall and Devon.

A stop-off at Devizes was a must for sandwiches in greaseproof paper and tea from a flask. But for me only living only five miles away in a little hamlet, where villagers viewed Devizes as a dazzling metropolis, it was a box of treats ,hiding such diverse delights as school shoes, cattle feed and cheese.

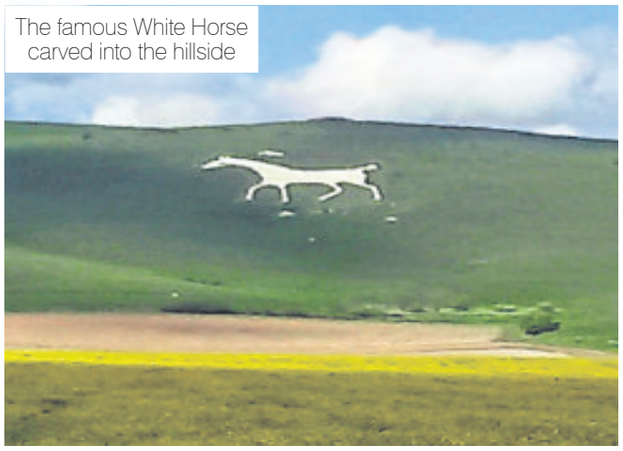
How lovely then to go back to my home town, on a tour of south Wiltshire and see it through the eyes of a tourist, and not one on the road to somewhere else, but one intent on enjoying all this 1,000-year-old settlement can offer.

## FASCINATING

Still dominating the skyline, is the Wadworths brewery, home of the much venerated 6X ale. The scent of its toasted malt fills the streets now, as it did then when I was a schoolgirl. A team of shire horses still deliver the barrels within a two-mile radius, and it is still a major employer. But now, the facade is crisp and bedecked with flowers and pride of place is given to a smart visitors' centre.

Booking in advance is a must for a two-hour tour of this fascinating building, where all the 'big girls and boys' seem to get holiday jobs when I was a youngster.

The tour includes an opportunity to marvel both at the size of the shire horses, and the skills of the brewery's own sign-writers. And what's not to love about the opportunity to taste some of the quality brews at the end – and take home a few bonus samples.



The famous White Horse carved into the hillside

Traders busy in Devizes Market Place

Next on our fresh look at Devizes, was a 90-minute cruise aboard the Kenavon Venture along the Kennet and Avon Canal. While I'm sure this waterway was there when I was a child, I didn't notice it, and neither had anyone with an eye for tourism.

It's a beauty. Alongside a bewitching wharf, with cafe, curios, antiques and art the Devizes leg snakes through the edge of the town and into the Wiltshire countryside, with maybe the chance to spot a kingfisher or a water vole. There is also, nowadays, a smart new marina and a museum.

Our trip was a lovely opportunity to relax after all the beer tasting and to hear all the fascinating snippets of canal gossip served up by our crew.

We were still laughing when we arrived at our perfect bed and breakfast, Avalon Lodge, in Rowde. Owner Nick greeted us not only with the biggest smile in the world but a huge pot of tea and plates of luxury biscuits. What's more, he served them in a serene sitting room saved for guests – no annexing of the clientele in this lovely establishment. Beautiful decor, plump towels, an enormous shower and views over a cottage garden, ducks, geese and the hills beyond – perfect. Next morning we went somewhere no self-respecting 70s teenager would have dared visit – the Wiltshire Museum, just off Devizes market place. The more mature me loved it, especially in the hands of director David Dawson, who gave us a personal guided tour.

But it was to my own personal timeline that we returned for the end of our tour – Market Lavington, where I went to secondary school. Devizes, you are no longer a town to travel through – you are a destination, and a delight. SARAH COWEN-STRONG

# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

## Detached dormer bungalow in generous grounds

**Enviably located in a particularly prestigious neighbourhood on the semi-rural south-western outskirts of the city, 8 Springhill Park in Lower Penn, Wolverhampton, is an exceptional detached dormer bungalow superbly positioned in generous grounds.**

It is for sale through Bartlams at £565,000.

Its surprisingly spacious accommodation is in a versatile design with a very stylish specification.

A two storey home, it features a large lounge with a distinctive stone fireplace as a focal point, a formal dining room (or fourth bedroom), a 23ft sitting/living room (or fourth bedroom), a beautifully equipped contemporary-style breakfast kitchen including fine range of integrated appliances plus an informal dining area and adjacent utility/laundry, ground floor double bedroom and a lavish principal bathroom.

There are two double bedrooms on the first floor, each with a luxurious shower room en-suite and extensive built-in wardrobes, all incorporating gas-fired central heating to radiators and having by double glazed windows.

The property also provides potential for significant further enlargement with plans approved for an additional two-storey extension of excellent proportions.

Outside, the property is accessed via security gates opening onto extensive forecourt parking facilities and there is a large landscaped garden to the rear with a good degree of privacy.

Overall the plot area extends to approximately one third of an acre.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "This lovely family home of considerable appeal requires inspection for full appreciation of its size, style and quality."

Outside, the security gates are remote-controlled and open onto a forecourt providing extensive parking space to the front and side, flanked by lawn and shrub beds.

The garage/store has a roller shutter door, fitted cupboard and shelving and a rear door linking it with the living accommodation.

## LOWER PENN £565,000

### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

**AGENT: Bartlams**

**TEL: 01902 759888**

**EMAIL: tettenhallsales@bartlams.co.uk**

### KEY FEATURES

- Detached dormer bungalow
- Versatile layout
- 3/4 bedrooms
- Superbly presented
- Generous grounds

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# Wolverhampton

## FIELD VIEWS TO REAR

**COVEN, GREGORYS GREEN** £395,000

### 5 BEDROOMS • CUL DE SAC

"A SUBSTANTIAL DECEPTIVE MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME IN A CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION WITH FIELD VIEWS TO REAR" Comprise wc, 30ft lounge, dining room, open plan breakfast kitchen, utility, feature conservatory, FIVE BEDROOMS, bathroom, en-suite, front & rear gardens, off road parking & garage/store. EPC rating C

## INCLUDES DETACHED OUTBUILDING

**CODSALL WOOD, COUNTY LANE** £375,000

### BUILDING PLOT POTENTIAL (STPP)

"A WONDERFUL COUNTRY COTTAGE SITUATED IN A DESIRABLE LOCATION" Briefly comprising lounge with feature log burner, kitchen diner, two bedrooms, fitted bathroom, study area landing, detached building offering fantastic annex potential as well as extra land to side, gated parking & beautiful gardens. EPC rating G

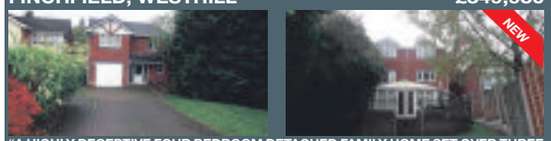
## MUST BE VIEWED

**SHARESHILL, SCHOOL LANE** £375,000

### 4 BEDROOMS PLUS NURSERY

"AN IMPRESSIVE & HIGHLY DECEPTIVE SHOWHOME STYLED DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOW SET IN A CHARMING VILLAGE LOCATION" Comprising generous lounge 20ft open plan entertainment dining kitchen, utility, four bedrooms plus office/nursery (set over 2 floors), bathroom, shower room, garage, front & rear gardens. EPC D

**FINCHFIELD, WESTHILL** £349,950




"A HIGHLY DECEPTIVE FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME SET OVER THREE FLOORS & OFFERS EXCELLENT LIVING ACCOMMODATION!" Comprising - hall, lounge, sitting/dining room, fitted kitchen, wc, utility, conservatory, four bedrooms, en suite, family bathroom, front & rear gardens, off road parking, garage. EPC rating C

# WINNERS
## THE UK'S TOP SELLING CONNELLS BRANCH 2017

**ESSINGTON, HOBNOCK ROAD** £250,000

"A HIGHLY DECEPTIVE THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME THAT IS WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT!" Comprising - hall, lounge diner, office/study, wc, modern fitted kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, en suite to bedroom two, shower room, outbuilding with annex potential, front & rear gardens, off road parking. EPC rating D

**TETTENHALL WOODTHORNE ROAD** £280,000

"A CHARMING LINK DETACHED COACH HOUSE SITUATED IN A SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION" Comprising entrance hall with fitted alarm system, ground floor guest wc, 24ft open plan house diner, dining kitchen with named appliances, two generous double bedrooms, two luxury en-suites, communal parking & gardens. EPC rating C

**TETTENHALL LOWER GREEN** £270,000

"A SELECTION OF SIX LUXURY & DELIGHTFUL GROUND & SECOND FLOOR APARTMENTS WITH GREEN VIEWS TO FRONT" Apt F - A striking first floor apartment with comprising large open plan lounge kitchen diner, THREE BEDROOMS, luxury en-suite & fitted bathroom, secured rear gated parking & communal gardens. EPC rating D

**PENN MANOR ROAD** £250,000

"CONNELLS ARE PLEASED TO OFFER FOR SALE A CHARMING TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW!" Comprising - entrance hall, lounge diner, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom, front & rear gardens, garage.

**WEDNESFIELD COPES CRESCENT** £197,000

"A HIGHLY DECEPTIVE TRADITIONAL EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY WITH GREEN VIEWS TO FRONT!" This spacious home comprises of sitting room, 20ft open plan lounge diner, generous kitchen diner, FOUR BEDROOMS, two bathroom areas, large rear gardens with garage to side. EPC rating E

**COPPICE FARM KINGFISHER GROVE** £280,000

"THIS HIGHLY DECEPTIVE 4/5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME IS WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT & OFFERS FANTASTIC LIVING ACCOMMODATION!" Comprising - porch, hall, lounge, dining room, occasional bedroom/study, modern kitchen, conservatory, utility, wc, 4 bedrooms, en suite, bathroom, off road parking, rear garden. EPC rating D

**WANTED**
**2 & 3 BEDROOM BUNGALOWS**

**BRADMORE ROWAN CRESCENT** £179,000

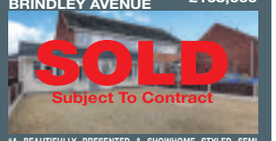
"A SUPERB OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE THIS DELIGHTFUL TWO BEDROOMS SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW SITUATED IN A SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION" Comprising entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, two bedrooms, shower room, front & rear gardens, off road parking & garage. EPC rating E

**COPPICE FARM MILESTONE WAY** £175,000

"CONNELLS ARE OFFERING FOR SALE A MODERN SEMI DETACHED HOME SITUATED ON THE POPULAR COPPICE FARM ESTATE" Comprising lounge, large open plan fitted kitchen diner, feature conservatory, 30ft triple length garage with rear utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, front & rear gardens & off road parking. EPC rating D

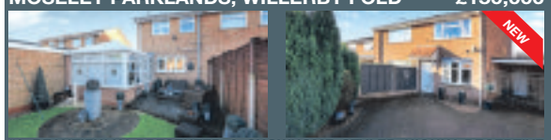
**WANTED**
**2, 3 & 4 BEDROOM HOMES WILLENHALL & BILSTON**

**ASHMORE PARK BRINDLEY AVENUE** £165,000




"A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & SHOWHOME STYLED SEMI DETACHED HOME & OFFERS FLEXIBLE LIVING ACCOMMODATION" Comprising 20ft open plan lounge diner, refitted designer kitchen, refitted utility, separate wc, Bedroom 4/play room/sitting room, three bedrooms, attic area, refitted bathroom & off road parking. EPC rating D

**MOSELEY PARKLANDS, WILLERBY FOLD** £150,000




"A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & SHOWHOME STYLED HIGHLY DECEPTIVE EXTENDED MODERN SEMI DETACHED IN A CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION" Briefly comprising lounge, fitted kitchen, utility area, feature conservatory, two bedrooms, fitted bathroom, pleasant front & rear gardens with carport to side. EPC rating D

## LAST FEW REMAINING

**NEWBRIDGE, STOKES GARDENS** From £350,000

### ONLY 5% DEPOSIT REQUIRED

"READY & AVAILABLE NOW!" A fantastic selection of 9 brand new luxury detached homes offering outstanding living accommodation at its best! 4, 5 & 5 (plus study) bedroom homes are available with 3 or 4 bathrooms/en-suites. EPC rating TBC

**MOSELEY PARKLANDS ABBEYFIELD ROAD** £185,000

"A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME SITUATED IN A POPULAR AREA OF MOSELEY PARKLANDS" Comprising entrance porch, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front & rear gardens, off road parking & garage. EPC rating C

**MOSELEY MEADOWS WYCHALL DRIVE** £175,000

"A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A MODERN LINK SEMI DETACHED HOME OFFERING FLEXIBLE LIVING ACCOMMODATION" Comprising 26ft open plan lounge diner, fitted kitchen, three/four bedrooms (Ground Floor Bedroom 4 converted garage), fitted family bathroom, front & rear gardens with off road parking. EPC rating D

**FALLINGS PARK BUSHBURY ROAD** £175,000

"A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & HIGHLY DECEPTIVE CHAIN FREE SEMI DETACHED HOME OFFERING ●FOUR BEDROOMS●!" Comprising- guest wc, large open plan lounge diner, refitted kitchen, four bedrooms, bathroom, front & large rear gardens with secure gated off road parking. EPC rating D

**BUSHBURY ALLESTON ROAD** £110,000

"AN AFFORDABLE & CHAIN FREE PREFAB DETACHED BUNGALOW READY & AVAILABLE NOW - CASH OFFER ARE BEING INVITED" Comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, lean to with utility/storage area, two double bedrooms, bathroom, front & pleasant rear gardens with off road parking potential to front. EPC rating E

**MONMORE GRANGE GREENOCK CRESCENT** £80,000

"A CHAIN FREE COACH HOUSE APARTMENT CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY" This first floor property benefits from having its own security entrance, lounge with adjoining kitchen, master bedrooms & family bathroom. Externally there is an allocated parking space. EPC rating B

**WOLVERHAMPTON HUMPHRIES ROAD** £80,000

"ATTENTION FIRST TIME BUYERS, STARTER FAMILIES & INVESTORS - A WONDERFUL THIRD FLOOR MODERN BUILD APARTMENT" Comprising communal entrance, inner entrance hall, generous lounge, separate kitchen, two bedrooms, fitted en-suite, REMOTE SECURITY GATED ACCESS to parking area & communal gardens. EPC rating D

**GOLD WINNERS** FOR THE **CONNELLS** GROUP

Connells

01902 710170
www.connells.co.uk

# Wolverhampton

## RURAL VIEWS TO REAR

**ESSINGTON, BROAD LANE** £290,000

### 4 BEDROOMS & EN SUITE

"A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & HIGHLY DECEPTIVE SHOWHOME STYLED DETAILS HOME WITH FIELD VIEWS TO REAR" Comprises study hall reception, 25ft open plan lounge diner, 18ft breakfast kitchen, utility, conservatory, four bedroom, en-suite, family bathroom, pleasant front & rear garden & 19ft garage. EPC rating D

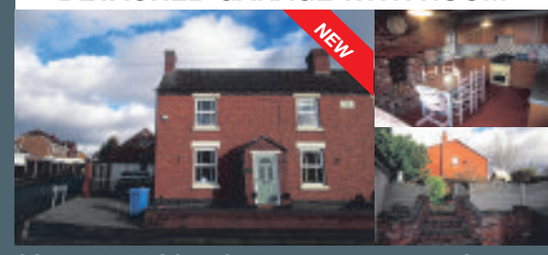
## BRAND NEW HOMES

**WILLENHALL, STROUD AVENUE** From £210,000

### 2, 3 & 4 BEDROOMS`

CONNELLS ARE OFFERING A FANTASTIC SELECTION OF BRAND NEW HOMES CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR WOLVERHAMPTON, WALSALL, WILLENHALL & WEDNESFIELD SHOPPING CENTRES ALONG WITH ACCESS TO THE M6 & M54 MOTORWAYS" Set in the heart of the popular residential estate we are offering for sale a selection of apartments, semi detached homes & detached homes. EPC rating TBC

## DETACHED GARAGE WITH ROOM

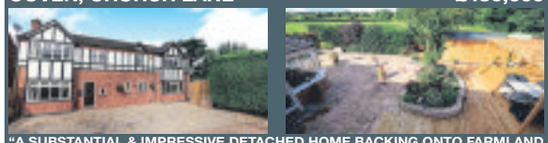



**COVEN, BREWOOD ROAD** £269,950

### ANNEX POTENTIAL (STPP)

"THIS WONDERFUL STUNNING THREE BEDROOM THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME!" Comprising - entrance hall, lounge, dining/sitting room, downstairs wc, traditional fitted kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front & rear gardens, double detached garage, upper room area. EPC rating D

**COVEN, CHURCH LANE** £450,000



"A SUBSTANTIAL & IMPRESSIVE DETACHED HOME BACKING ONTO FARMLAND FIELDS" Comprising wc, lounge, family entertainment dining area, orangery, utility, living room/gf guest bedroom five, four upstairs double bedrooms, two luxury en-suites, bathroom, off road parking & rear garden with log cabin. EPC rating D

**MOSELEY PARKLANDS, ABBEYFIELD ROAD** £220,000

"A HIGHLY DECEPTIVE MODERN DETACHED HOME SITUATED ON A DESIRABLE ESTATE" Comprising guest wc, lounge, 23ft open plan family entertainment dining kitchen, utility, three bedroom, refitted family bathroom, off road parking to front, storage garage to side & unique entertainment canopy area to rear. EPC rating D

# RECORD BREAKING SALES

## AT THE AWARD WINNING CONNELLS

## THINKING OF SELLING?

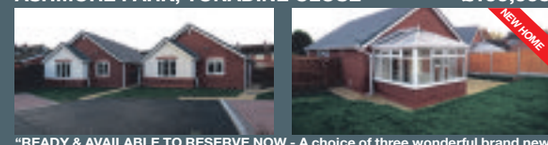
YOUR HOME MAY BE WORTH MORE THAN YOU THINK!

CALL FOR A FREE SELLING APPRAISAL

**COPPICE FARM, LOCHALSH GROVE** £250,000

"A HIGHLY DECEPTIVE 4/5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME OFFERING EXCELLENT LIVING ACCOMMODATION!" Comprising - porch, hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, lobby, bedroom 5 (annex style living accommodation), downstairs shower rooms, 4 bedrooms, en suite, bathroom, front & rear garden. EPC rating C

**ASHMORE PARK, TONADINE CLOSE** £199,995




"READY & AVAILABLE TO RESERVE NOW - A choice of three wonderful brand new luxury detached bungalows situated in a private cul-de-sac location & comprising lounge, kitchen, feature conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom & separate en-suite, rear gardens & off road parking. EPC rating TBC

**ASHMORE PARK GRIFFITHS DRIVE** £130,000

"A CHAIN FREE CORNER PLOT SEMI DETACHED HOME READY & AVAILABLE NOW OFFERING FANTASTIC POTENTIAL!" The property benefits from front, side & rear gardens with detached garage & off road parking. Internally there is a lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, ground floor wc, 3 bedrooms, shower room. EPC rating D

## WANTED

2, 3 & 4 BEDROOM HOMES WEDNESFIELD

**WEDNESFIELD MEON WAY** £189,995

"A WONDERFUL EXTENDED CORNER PLOT SEMI DETACHED HOME WITH SIDE ANNEX USAGE POTENTIAL!" Comprising - lounge, wonderful refitted kitchen, large dining room, annex/lounge, ground floor shower room, 4 bedrooms, fitted en suite, study area landing, bathroom, front, side & rear gardens, off road parking. EPC rating C

**MOSELEY PARKLANDS ABBEYFIELD ROAD** £189,995

"CONNELLS ARE PLEASED TO OFFER FOR SALE A CHARMING THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME" Comprising entrance hall, lounge diner, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, off road parking, front & rear gardens & garage. EPC rating D

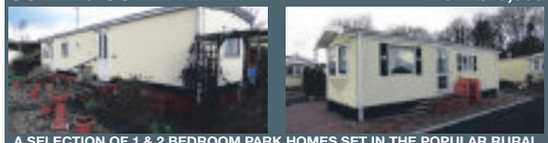
## WANTED

2 & 3 BEDROOM HOMES ASHMORE PARK

**ASHMORE PARK PARKER ROAD** £125,000

●●FLEXIBLE LIVING ACCOMMODATION●● A SEMI DETACHED HOME SITUATED ON THE EVER POPULAR ASHMORE PARK ESTATE! Comprising - 20ft open plan lounge diner, kitchen, 2/3 bedrooms (BEDROOM 3 SITUATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR WITH DISABILITY SHOWER ROOM), bathroom, front & rear garden, off road parking. EPC rating C

**COVEN & COVEN HEATH** From £40,000



A SELECTION OF 1 & 2 BEDROOM PARK HOMES SET IN THE POPULAR RURAL COVEN & COVEN HEATH AREAS.

MAKE US AN OFFER!

## LAST REMAINING 2 PLOTS

**ST ANNES ROAD, CHURCH VIEW** From £245,000

### ONLY 5% DEPOSIT REQUIRED (HTB)

••• LAST FEW REMAINING PLOTS •••

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FANTASTIC DEALS AVAILABLE ON THE LAST FEW REMAINING PLOTS. Four bedroom brand new luxury homes with a fantastic selection of fitted includions and beautiful and luxury kitchens and bathrooms. EPC rating TBC

**PENN PINFOLD GROVE** £240,000

"A HIGHLY DECEPTIVE TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW SITUATED IN THE POPULAR LOCATION OF PENN!" Comprising - entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, two bedrooms, family bathroom, utility, wet room, two loft areas, front and rear gardens, off road parking, garage. EPC rating E.

**PENN FIELDS STUBBS ROAD** £225,000

"AN INTERESTING & HIGHLY DECEPTIVE SPACIOUS CHAIN FREE VICTORIAN SEMI DETACHED HOME!" Comprising - lounge, sitting room, dining room, fitted kitchen, cellar, conservatory, utility, shower room, FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS, bathroom, 35ft garage (conversion potential), rear garden, summer house. EPC rating E

**WEDNESFIELD EXMOOR GREEN** £179,995

"A CHAIN FREE MODERN LINK DETACHED HOME WITH GREEN VIEWS TO FRONT & SITUATED JUST OFF THE POPULAR AMOS LANE!" Comprising - entrance hall, ground floor wc, generous lounge, large open plan fitted kitchen diner, 3 bedrooms, en suite, bathroom. THIS PROPERTY ALSO HAS GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING TO REAR. EPC rating D

**WARSTONES WARSTONES DRIVE** £170,000

"AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME!" Comprising - entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, utility room, three bedrooms, shower room, off road parking, garage, front & rear gardens. EPC rating TBC

**PARKFIELDS WATERSIDE CLOSE** £125,000

NOTICE OF OFFER - 56 Waterside Close, Wolverampton, WV2 1HN
By order of the mortgagees in possession, we would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £134,000. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents of their best offer either prior to exchange or within the next 7 days which ever is sooner. 01902 710170.EPC rating C

**BILSTON BEACH AVENUE** £125,000

"AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME OFFERING FANTASTIC POTENTIAL!" Comprising - entrance porch, lounge, sitting/dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, utility room, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front & rear gardens. EPC rating D

**GOLD WINNERS** FOR THE **CONNELLS** GROUP

B.

Tettenhall
01902 759 888

Wombourne
01902 894 141

## ESSINGTON

● Outstanding Detached residence superbly situated in small gated private drive off prestigious Sneyd Lane and with open aspect onto fields to rear. ● Extended accommodation of exceptionally spacious layout and lavishly appointed specification. A beautifully presented family home of particularly high standard. ● Fitted Cloakroom off Hall. ● Bay-fronted Lounge. ● 25ft. Dining/Sitting/Garden Room. ● Stunning Breakfast Kitchen (approx 300 sq.ft.!) with extensive range of fittings, granite surfaces and integrated appliances. ● Utility/Laundry and second fitted Cloakroom. ● Feature Galleried Landing with Sitting/Study Area. ● Magnificent Master Bedroom Suite including fitted Dressing Area, luxury Bathroom and spiral staircase to Study. ● Three further Bedrooms, all with wardrobes, one with Bathroom en-suite. ● House Bathroom. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Double-width Garage (14ft. length) plus generous forecourt parking facilities. ● Nicely landscaped

**OFFERS AROUND £525,000**

## COMPTON

● Detached Bungalow situated in select small cul-de-sac within highly favoured neighbourhood with convenient access to city centre and excellent local amenities. ● Attractively presented accommodation of surprisingly spacious layout and comfortably appointed specification. Scope for a little updating to realise full potential. ● Porch and Hall. ● Lounge interlinking with separate Dining Room. ● Kitchen with good range of fittings. ● Three good Bedrooms (two with ranges of fitted wardrobes). ● Bathroom featuring both bath and separate shower cubicle. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Garage, Carport and driveway parking. ● Nicely landscaped gardens, southerly aspect to rear. (EPC:

**OFFERS AROUND £299,950**

## TETTENHALL

● Charming semi-detached Cottage of delightful character, enviably located in exclusive conservation area setting just off the Upper Green with excellent selection of amenities within walking distance. ● Comfortably proportioned accommodation with attractively appointed specification and scope for a little upgrading. ● Fitted Cloakroom off Hall. ● Sitting Room with rustic brick feature fireplace. ● Separate Dining Room. ● Neatly fitted Kitchen. ● Two double Bedrooms. ● Smart white contemporary-style Bathroom. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Majority double/secondary glazing. ● Pleasant mature landscaped garden enjoying southerly aspect. (EPC: E)

**OFFERS AROUND £274,950**

## OFF TETTENHALL ROAD

● Beautifully refurbished Victorian semi-detached villa residence in popular neighbourhood well served by amenities and with easy access into city centre. ● Spacious family accommodation retaining the charm and character of its period origins whilst attractively presented with superb contemporary-style appointments and lovely decor. ● Delightful Hall with stained glass and Minton tiling. ● Fitted Cloakroom. ● Two Reception Rooms. ● Outstanding Breakfast Kitchen (approx 250 sq.ft!) with excellent range of fittings incorporating range cooker etc. ● Master Bedroom with elegant Shower Room en-suite. ● Three further double Bedrooms. ● Luxurious principal Bathroom. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Nicely landscaped gardens including extensive feature patio terrace in timber decking and ornamental pavings. (EPC: D)

**OFFERS AROUND £259,950**

## COVEN

● Outstanding semi-detached Bungalow occupying impressive corner plot in lovely village location well served by amenities and handily placed to access motorway network for commuting purposes. ● Much extended accommodation offering versatile layout of superbly spacious proportions and very comfortable specification. ● Two large Living Rooms (each in excess of 200 sq.ft!). ● Smart modern Kitchen including integrated appliances. ● Three Bedrooms (one with Toilet Room en-suite). ● Elegant white Bathroom including shower. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● 22ft. Garage plus in-and-out driveway providing generous parking facilities. ● Mostly lawned gardens plus

**OFFERS AROUND £249,950**

## FINCHFIELD

● Outstanding semi-detached residence of immense appeal, favourably positioned in pleasant cul-de-sac within much sought after neighbourhood. ● Superbly refurbished accommodation, beautifully presented with lovely blend of traditional character and contemporary specification. Must be seen! ● Porch and Hall. ● Bay-fronted Sitting Room. ● Stunning Dining Kitchen with lavish range of stylish fittings and integrated appliances. ● Utility/Laundry and fitted Cloakroom. ● Three well proportioned Bedrooms. ● Elegant contemporary-style Bathroom. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Forecourt parking facilities. ● Small Garage/Store. ● Paved and lawned garden extending 70ft. to rear. ● £250 contribution towards purchasers moving costs if preferred solicitors are used. (See Agents for further details). (EPC: TBA)

**OFFERS AROUND £225,000**

## FINCHFIELD

● Elegant detached Bungalow set in pleasant cul-de-sac position within particularly popular locality with easy access to good selection of amenities. ● Comfortably proportioned accommodation neatly presented with well appointed specification. ● Spacious L-shaped Living Room with defined Sitting and Dining Areas. ● Attractively fitted Kitchen. ● Two Bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes. ● Fully tiled Shower Room with smart contemporary-style suite. ● Gas-fired central heating (ducted air). ● Double glazed windows. ● Garage, Carport and driveway parking. ● Mature landscaped gardens. (EPC: E)

**OFFERS AROUND £220,000**

## PENN

**MOUNT ROAD** ● Stylishly presented and usefully extended traditional style 3 Bedroom End-Terraced house set in established position on the south western suburbs of Wolverhampton close to Penn Common and the popular St Bartholomews Primary School ● Roomy ground floor layout provides an open plan Lounge and Entrance Hall area ● Separate Dining Room ● 'L' shaped Breakfast Area and Kitchen fitted with a range of 'beech' effect units including built-under oven, hob and cooker hood ● 3 Bedrooms, two with wardrobes ● Refitted Bathroom with white suite and rainhead shower ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Driveway parking ● Garage building subdivided to form garage store and Utility Store (no vehicular access) ● Extensive rear garden with timber shed (EPC: E)

**OFFERS AROUND £199,950**

## PENN FIELDS

● Traditional-style Semi in popular setting just off Jeffcock Road with good selection of amenities readily available and easy access into city centre. ● Typically well proportioned accommodation presented in neat order and appointed to comfortable modern standard. ● Porch and Hall. ● Bay-fronted Lounge with classical-style feature fireplace. ● Separate Dining Room with patio doors to garden. ● Nicely fitted Kitchen. ● Three Bedrooms. ● Smart contemporary-style shower/wet room. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Garage plus forecourt parking. ● 22ft. Utility Area. ● Enclosed rear garden with lawn and patio areas. . (EPC: D)

**OFFERS AROUND £157.950**

## WOMBOURNE

**MILLFIELDS WAY** ● Usefully enlarged 2 Bed Mid-Terraced house with pretty gabled front elevation occupying a pleasant position on Poolhouse Farm estate convenient for the village facilities and schools ● Garage in block at rear ● Stylishly re-modelled interior to provide a roomy open plan Living Area ● Superbly refitted Kitchen with a range of cream Shaker style units ● 2 Bedrooms ● Refitted Bathroom with white suite including 'P' shaped bath and shower ● Gardens to front and rear which at the rear includes an Astro turf lawn and useful Garden Store ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Viewing highly recommended! (EPC: D)

**OFFERS AROUND £154,950**

Bartlams. rightmove RICS OnTheMarket.com

Browse our complete property listings on:
**bartlams.co.uk**

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SDL AUCTIONS
BIGWOOD

# 15TH FEBRUARY

Aston Villa Football Ground
Starting at 10:30am

# AUCTION

**154 LOTS** To include properties on behalf of:
Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Housing Associations

Birmingham City Council · City of Wolverhampton Council · Sandwell · Canal & River Trust

**127 Springfield Road, Heath Town**
3 Bed End Terraced House
**Guide: £73,000+ (plus fees)**

**146 Fordhouse Rd, Wolverhampton**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £40,000+ (plus fees)**

**12 Wolverley Avenue, Warstones**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £69,000-£74,000 (plus fees)**

**48 Oxbarn Avenue, Bradmore**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £60,000+ (plus fees)**

**18 Longdon Av., Goldthorn Park**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £79,000-£84,000 (plus fees)**

**369 Stafford Rd, Wolverhampton**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

**123 Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley**
2 Bed Mid Terraced House
**Guide: £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)**

**34 Fowler Street, Wolverhampton**
2 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)**

**89 Blackhalve Lane, Wednesfield**
2 Bed Mid Terraced House
**Guide: £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)**

**59 Kimberley St, Wolverhampton**
3 Bed Mid Terraced House
**Guide: £35,000+ (plus fees)**

Vacant Residential Properties, Residential Investments, Vacant Commercial Properties, Commercial Investments, Land/Development Opportunities, Garages & Ground Rents

**0121 233 5046** **www.sdlauctions.co.uk** **@SDLA_Bigwood**

Each property is subject to a Reserve Price which would ordinarily be within + or – 10% of the quoted Guide Price. Therefore the property may not be able to be purchased at the quoted Guide Price. Both Guide and Reserve Prices can be subject to change up to and including the day of the auction. For a full explanation go to www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary. All Guide Prices are subject to additional non-optional fees, including the buyers administration fee. For the Energy Performance Rating of each property please refer to the legal pack, our catalogue or website. Please contact our office for further details or advice. *Subject to obtaining the necessary planning permission.

SDL AUCTIONS
BIGWOOD

# AUCTION
## 15th February 2018
at Aston Villa Football Ground

View: 2/2 @ 13.15; 3/2 @ 12.15; 5/2 @ 13.15 & 7/2 @ 12.15

**34 Argyle Road, Wolverhampton**
3 bed mid terraced house
**Guide: £19,000 - £24,000**
**(plus fees)**

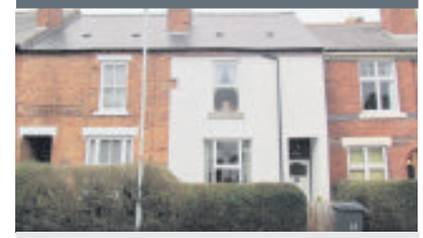
View: 2/2 @ 12.15; 3/2 @ 13.15; 5/2 @ 12.15 & 7/2 @ 13.15

**Lower Villiers St, Wolverhampton**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £49,000 - £54,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 2/2 @ 12.15; 5/2 @ 12.15; 7/2 @ 13.30 & 10/2 @ 13.30

**Cavendish Gds, Wolverhampton**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £39,000 - £44,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 2/2 @ 10.45; 3/2 @ 14.45; 5/2 @ 10.45 & 7/2 @ 14.25



**46 Limes Road, Tettenhall**
3 bed mid terraced house
**Guide: £50,000+**
**(plus fees)**

View: 5/2 @ 15.45; 7/2 @ 10.00 & 10/2 @ 10.00

**11 Beakes Road, Bearwood**
4 bed mid terraced house
**Guide: £50,000+**
**(plus fees)**

View: 5/2 @ 10.00; 7/2 @ 15.45 & 10/2 @ 15.45

**107 Grosvenor Road, Handsworth**
3 bed detached house
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 3/2 @ 12.45; 5/2 @ 12.45 & 7/2 @ 12.45

**34 Fowler St, Wolverhampton**
2/3 bed semi detached bungalow
**Guide: £29,000 - £34,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 5/2 @ 14.45, 7/2 @ 11.00 & 10/2 @ 11.00

**105 Bunns Lane, Dudley**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £69,000 - £74,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 5/2 @ 13.30; 7/2 @ 12.15 & 10/2 @ 12.15

**123 Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley**
2 bed mid terraced house
**Guide: £19,000-£24,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 5/2 @ 11.30; 7/2 @ 14.15 & 10/2 @ 14.15

**173 Great Bridge Road, Bilston**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £29,000 - £34,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 3/2 @ 11.45; 5/2 @ 13.45 & 7/2 @ 11.45

**Longdon Avenue, Goldthorn Park**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £79,000 - £84,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 3/2 @ 10.00; 5/2 @ 15.30 & 7/2 @ 10.00

**89 Blackhalve Lane, Wednesfield**
2 bed mid terraced house
**Guide: £19,000 - £24,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 3/2 @15.30; 5/2 @ 10.00 & 7/2 @ 15.30

**369 Stafford Road, Wolverhampton**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 5/2 @ 14.00; 7/2 @ 11.45 & 10/2 @ 11.45

**24 Galbraith Close, Bilston**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £39,000 - £44,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 3/2 @ 14.00; 5/2 @ 11.30 & 7/2 @ 14.00

**12 Wolverley Avenue, Penn**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £69.000 - £74,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 5/2 @ 10.45; 7/2 @ 15.00 & 10/2 @ 15.00

**2 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich**
2 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £39,000 - £44,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 5/2 @ 13.00; 7/2 @ 12.45 & 10/2 @ 12.45

**1A Woodcross Lane, Wolverhampton**
4 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 3/2 @ 11.00; 5/2 @ 14.30 & 7/2 @ 11.00

**3 Giffard Road, Wolverhampton**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £39,000 - £44,000**
**(plus fees)**

View by appointment with the auctioneer

**Malcolm Court, Wolverhampton**
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**Guide: £29,000 - £34,000**
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# PROPERTY

## Extended property has been well maintained

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The extended property has been well maintained and is presented to a good standard throughout.

It has excellent living space and would be ideal for first time buyers, investors or even those wishing to downsize.

It has an entrance hall, a lounge, a fitted kitchen opening into the extended dining room, two good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside there is off road parking to the front and a pleasant rear garden.

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**BLOXWICH** £250,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

ENDERLEY DRIVE

This extended detached bungalow residence would benefit from a future scheme of cosmetic remodelling now but does already benefit from rad CH & uPVC DG (both where specified) a driveway, garage and large store room. A bit quirky, a bit dated but has bags of space and potential. No upwards chain. Offers invited. (EPC = TBC)

3 1 1

**WHEATON ASTON** £189,950

OFFERS INVITED

GREENHILL LANE

Semi detached dormer bungalow. Has been extended by the current owners and now offers two 1st floor bedrooms. On the ground floor is a 3rd bed/Study/Play Room. Substantial sectional garage with storage areas. Majority double glazing and radiator CH. Large driveway to the front and neat garden to the rear. No upwards chain. (EPC 49 = E)

3 1 1

**GOLDTHORN HILL** £139,995

NEW INSTRUCTION

NEEDWOOD CLOSE

A detached 3 bedroom house situated to the popular South of the City and ideal for a wide range of local amenities including good schools. The property is certainly a 'project' and not mortgageable at this time thus CASH offers only are sought. Requires full and extensive refurbishment but surely offers great potential.
(EPC 1 = G)

3 1 1

**CASTLECROFT** £150,000

NO CHAIN & OFFERS INVITED FOR CONSIDERATION

CHELMARSH AVENUE

Traditional 3 bed ex-authority house. uPVC DG and modern CH system. Clean and presentable with potential for a future scheme of cosmetic remodelling. South Westerly facing rear garden and spacious front garden with potential for off road parking, the front curb has already been lowered. No chain and offers invited. (EPC 67 = D)

3 1 1

**BILSTON** £118,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

BELL STREET

No upwards chain. Offers invited, this charming bungalow is well worth viewing. DG and CH plus conservatory, parking and rear garden. The property is in good repair and ideal for access to both Bilston, W'ton and beyond being conveniently situated for major bus routes and the midland metro tram. – Call us now (EPC = TBC)

1 1 1

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# MOTORING | YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE BEST CARS ON THE MARKET

## Arona has right credentials to impact competition

By John Griffiths

**A major investment in new models has put SEAT in the driving seat in terms of sales, with its latest revelation looking a strong contender in one of the UK market's most competitive areas.**

Its Arona is the company's second SUV-styled model, a little smaller than its stablemate the Ateca but larger than the new Ibiza on which it is based.

With prices starting at £16,555 it isn't the cheapest in the highly competitive compact SUV sector, but SEAT is relying on its high equipment levels and sporty driving dynamics to drive sales.

There is no pretence of off-road ability: the Arona comes in front wheel drive form only, but judging by the sales of chief rivals most buyers want the look and extra height (for visibility and ease of access) in a car of this size and price, with few opting for the more expense 4WD option even where it's available.

It's an area of the market where SEAT must dip its toes if it is to continue its growth – bucking the trend of declining sales in the UK with a whopping 18.2 per cent increase last year. Indeed, it is now the fastest growing volume manufacturer in Europe.

There's more to come over the next two years, including a full size SUV to join the Arona and Ateca and a further five new models, including an electric car.

The company's optimism is justified as its first SUV, the Ateca, has won ten UK awards and a year after its launch demand is still outstripping supply.

Now the Arona will be taking on the likes of the popular Renault Captur, Nissan Juke and the new Citroën C3 Aircross.

The Arona has presence: the familiar sculpted body panels, the extra height and the availablility of metallic paint and a contrasting colour roof at no extra cost. It also has SEAT's award-winning infotainment and connectivity system on higher grade models, including the option of Amazon's 'Alexa' voice interface.

There are six trim levels, including two sporting themed versions (the FR and FR Sport) and two blinged-up luxury versions, the Xcellence and Xcellence Lux.

The turbocharged petrol engines range from 95 to 150PS, and there are two versions of the familiar 1.6 litre turbo diesel rated at either 95 or 150PS.

A popular choice is likely to be the 1.0 TSI, a three cylinder petrol engine already used across the SEAT (including the new Ibiza) VW and Skoda ranges which has made a name for itself for its combination of lively, refined performance and economy.

The test was the 115Ps version, but that's only part of the story: thanks to the turbo it also produces 200Nm or torque (not far off a small diesel) from low revs.

Combined with a six-speed gearbox (there are five ratios on the 95Ps model) it means it's quick off the mark (0 to 62mph in 9.8 seconds) but refined, being barely audible while cruising at motorway speeds. It is also capable of averaging more than 57mpg (official test figures) with a low 113g/km CO2 rating.

Drivers after more performance may opt for the 150PS, 1.5TSi engine which cuts a second and a half off the sprint time for only a 3mpg fuel penalty, while for the high mileage driver in search of ultimate economy the diesels can boast figures around the 70mpg mark.

The brakes are powerful but progressive, while the steering is light but communicative, helping you feel at one with the car.

The FR version's ride is firmish, but not too harsh and body roll is well-controlled – this is a model clearly focussed on dynamics which is something of a departure for the class. It handles the twisty bits like a 'warm' hatchback, in spite of its extra height.

The interior is contemporary and well designed: the instruments and centre control touchscreen well laid out with a full, contrasting 'bar' running the full width of the dash.

Much of the latest technology from SEAT's larger models has found its way into the Arona, too, such as rain and light sensors, and a range of safety systems such as driver tiredness alert, tyre pressure warning, front assist, stablity control, and front side and curtain airbags.

Air conditioning, allow wheels, multi media system with steering wheel remote controls and cruise control are also standard.

FR and Xcellence Lux versions also include dynamic chassis control options which allow the driver to set up the car (normal, sport, eco or individual).

**Arona has presence: the familiar sculpted body panels, the extra height and the availablility of metallic paint and a contrasting colour roof**

Apart from the entry-level SE model, Aronas also come with satellite navigation, a full MirrorLink system for smartphones, wireless phone charging, a CD player and rear parking sensors. FR versions get a sporting look, with features such as sports seats and tinted windows, while the FR Sport ugrades the upholstery to alcantara. Xcellence trim adds blind sport and rear cross detection, adaptive cruise control and climatronic air conditioning.

The top of the range Xcellence Lux, which starts from £22,095 with the 1.0 litre turbo engine, also gets front parking sensors, a rear view camera and a park assist system.

Taken as a package, the Arona has the right credentials to make an impact against the competition, and while car buyers continue to show an insatiable desire for SUV-styled cars – by far the fastest growing area of the market – it has every chance of becoming as popular as the Ateca.

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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, February 1, 2018

The Stonic is Kia's first venture into this competitive market sector

# In the market for a compact SUV? Then try a Kia Stonic

By Carmel Stewart

**Proof, if proof were needed, that the SUV market is taking over the automotive world, comes in the shape of yet another chunky, robust, highly capable model easing its way into the segment to challenge all comers.**

In a market which is expected to see European sales doubling to more than two million in the next couple of years, the Kia Stonic may well prove to be a worthy challenger.

Sitting on the Rio supermini platform and built in South Korea, the Stonic is Kia's first venture into this highly competitive market sector. Prices start at £16,295 – so slightly pricier than its rivals – but Kia argues that it has a more extensive standard spec list and that unbeatable seven-year warranty.

As always, Kia has kept things simple with three tried and tested engines, one manual transmission and two trim levels – Grade 2 and First Edition.

The peppy 1.0litre, 118bhp three-cylinder turbo charged petrol unit, well matched to the six-speed manual transmission will, more than likely, be top choice for most buyers. Not only will it average 56.5mpg but it will also zap from a standing start to 60mph in less than ten seconds so, unless you are looking for a getaway vehicle, that should be fast enough for most of us.

Standard specification includes Apple CarPlay

The entry-level 1.4litre, 98bhp petrol, averages 51. 4 mpg. It is less powerful than the 1.0litre and is only available with Grade 2 trim but is the lowest priced.

The 1.6litre, 108bhp turbo diesel sits less comfortably under the bonnet of the Stonic than the petrol units. Certainly, it has more torque than the others and it'll be first choice for anyone who needs to soak up the miles, averaging as it does 67.3mpg. It also clocked up the lowest CO2 but it wasn't as quiet or as much fun.

If an auto is a must there is one available but no 4WD is on the cards as, surprisingly, the take-up for all-wheel drive in this sector of the market is only eight per cent.

On the road, the Stonic is a sweet, smooth, solid performer, offering a comfortable, composed, enjoyable drive, presenting no problems right from the off.

Being engineered with European roads in mind, its well-tuned suspension, responsive steering and high driving position all engender confidence. Road holding, even when pushed into sharp corners, is unwavering, thanks in part at least to the standard fit electronic stability control and vehicle stability management which combine to do pretty much as described, keeping the vehicle firmly on the straight and narrow.

Standard spec includes 17-inch alloys, skid plates, air con, all-round electric windows, roof rails, rear parking sensors, Bluetooth and LED daytime running lights, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity with smartphone integration.

Electronic safety aids, which even just a few years ago were very expensive optional extras, are now fitted as standard by many manufacturers – Kia Included.

Hill start assist is standard across the range as is vehicle stability management while autonomous emergency braking, lane departure warning, high beam assist, driver attention alert and blind spot detection are standard in First Edition.

Also standard on this higher spec model are touch screen navigation with traffic messages, high beam assist which automatically switches the lights between dipped and full beam according to the traffic around it and the local street lighting, contrasting interior colour options, two-tone exterior paint and those delights of winter driving, heated front seats and steering wheel.

The roof, wing mirror casings and rear spoiler can be picked out in either black, lime green, red or orange – which look far better than they sound – depending on the choice of main body colour, and there are colour accents in the interior on the seats and around the lower centre console and display screen areas.

If you are in the market for a compact SUV, the Kia Stonic should be on your test drive list, at the very least.


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13 plate

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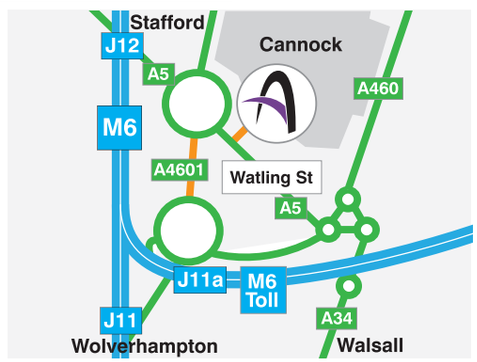

Front fog lamps, LED headlights are now standard on the EX

# Honda announces pricing and grades for all-new Jazz

By James Parker

**Honda has revealed the pricing and grades for the 2018 new-look Honda Jazz, following its successful unveil at the Frankfurt Motor Show last year.**

Priced at £14,115 for the entry level S grade, the range tops out at £17,155 for the new Sport edition, which features the new 130 PS (96 kW) 1.5-litre i-VTEC engine.

With customer deliveries expected to start from February, the new line-up will also include Skyride Blue Metallic as a new colour option.

PCP pricing has also been confirmed for new Jazz line up with the Sport available for £199 a month on a 5.9% APR three year agreement.

The 102PS 1.3 i-VTEC engine range will start off at £14,115 on-the-road for the entry-level S model. Specifications are generous across the range, with base-grade S models fitted as standard with convenience features such as air conditioning, cruise control with speed limiter and dusk sensing auto lights.

The mid-grade SE model, priced from £15,615 on-the-road, adds front and rear parking sensors, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors and 15" alloy wheels.

Those opting for the top-grade EX model (from £17,115) will appreciate smart entry and start, automatic climate control and reversing camera. Styling is enhanced with 16-inch alloy wheels and front fog lamps, while LED headlights are now standard addition on the EX.

Styling is enhanced with 16-inch alloy wheels

Brand new to the line-up is the Jazz Sport which features a 130PS (96 kW) 1.5-litre i-VTEC petrol engine. Based on the SE grade the Sport features; a thinner front splitter beneath the lower grille, and triple-strake diffuser to the rear bumper – both finished with a sporty red accent line similar to the Civic Type R, LED headlights, front fog lamps, side sill skirts, a tailgate spoiler and gloss-black 16" alloy wheels. The interior features a unique pinstripe pattern on the upholstery and a leather-wrapped steering wheel and gear knob, all of which are enhanced by orange stitching.

The new 1.5-litre sport is available to pre order now, with first customer deliveries scheduled to land in dealer forecourts for February 2018.

Phil Webb, head of car at Honda UK, commented: "The Jazz is our best-selling car in the UK and has been rejuvenated with the new Sport model, as well as the new interior and exterior styling. The Jazz is a very important model for us, with an extremely loyal following, so we look forward to seeing this success continue with the new line up and the addition of the Sport model."

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For great business results call **01902 319 191**

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**CLEAR VISION AERIALS** Freeview, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV. Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

**ALAN JONES**
*THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!*
*Est 1955 - 59 years at the top!*
**Recommended by thousands**
**Genuine, honest, 100% reliable**
WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO
**Call: 01902 885985**
*ANY PROBLEM SOLVED*

**R&G SATELLITE SERVICES.** Freeview/ Aerial Installation & repairs/ Satellite Dish/ Sky/ CCTV/ TV Wall Mounting. Telephone. 01902 519361.

### Appliance Repairs

**A SAME DAY REPAIR** - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

### Bathrooms

**BATHROOM DESIGN** All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms: 07850 382548.

### Alarms/Security

**PREMIER ALARMS**
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
**Call: 0121 601 9791**

### Building Services

**APPROVED CONTRACTOR**
All damp problems, roofing, all building & all plastering work.
Free quotes 07538 118034 or 01902 752161.

**P.FENLON BUILDERS** All aspects of building. Block paving, plastering, brickwork etc. 01902 445315 / 07790 286187.

### Carpet Fitters

**A CARPETS & VINYLS** supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

### Domestic Cleaning

**CLEAN FOR YOU** (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

### Domestic Repairs & Services

**SAME DAY** Low Cost Repairs. Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers. 12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

### Double Glazing Repairs

**S.P.S** replace misted glass, locks, hinges, windows, doors, guaranteed. OAP discount. 07983 704889

### Drain Clearance

**ALL DRAIN AND SEWER** Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

### Driveways & Patios

**CRETE BY DESIGN**
Concrete Imprinting
* BLOCK PAVING * TARMACING
* RESIN DRIVES FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

### Electrical Services

**A BARGAIN REWIRE,** fuseboards, cctv, alarms, showers, NICEIC. 01902 842739 / 07783 471949.

**ALL ELECTRICAL** work from a switch to a rewire. Insured, free quote 01902 575570 / 07958 627434.

**ALL HOME ELECTRICS** NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

**MB ELECTRIC.CO.UK** Home wiring specialist. NICEIC. High quality local service. Freephone; 0800 211 8398 / 07939 503905

**STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL** Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

### Fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**
SPECIAL OFFER
*10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards* £695
*Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.*
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

**BUSHBURY FENCING AND GATES**
*SUPPLY AND FITTING SPECIALISTS*
FREE QUOTES
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**CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!**

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

*Michael- Portway Fencing*

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

**C B SHEDS & FENCING**
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

### Garage Conversions

**ALL GARAGE CONVERSIONS CATERED FOR** OAP discounts, Free quotes call 07522 643706

### Gardening Services

**GARDEN KINGS** All Garden work and maintenance, Fencing, Tree cutting, Turfing and much more. Call: Steve for free quote. 07774449900 / 01902 238653.

**OAKTREE TREE SERVICES**
Covers all aspects of tree surgery, grass cutting and hedges. Garden clearances, turfing and fencing
07427 060382

### Gas Fitting

**A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED**
Landlord certs.
All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
Call John:
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**GAS SERVICES**
• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
*DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs*
**Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975**

**READERS ARE ADVISED**
**To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.**
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

### Gates

**ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS,** etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

**DARLASTON FABS** 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

### Guttering

**A1 GUTTERING**
cleaned, repaired, replaced, facias/soffits, UPVC washdowns,all roofing/repointing work.
Free quotes, 8am-8pm
01902 722447
25% OFF

**Arrow Guttering**
Fascias, Soffits, Cleaning, Repairs, Replacements.
All types of roofing. Free Quotes.
01902 820996

### Handyman Services

**HANDY MAN** - Most trades, plumbing, heating, gardening & decorating, Gutter clean no ladders, free quotes call 07850 559315.

### Home Improvements

**BLAYDON PROPERTY SERVICES**
No Job Too Small
Free Quotes
GUTTERS & FASCIAS
GUTTER CLEANING, GARDEN WORK
ELECTRICS / PLASTERING ETC
T: 01902 655578 | M: 07954 607991

### House Clearances

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

**HARVEYS HOUSE CLEARANCES** Quick, discreet and professional. 07939 421862 / 01902 410433

**ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED**
FULL OR PART, GARAGES AND SHEDS RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

### Oven Cleaning

**AAA OVEN CLEANING**, Ovens, Hobs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

### Plans Prepared

**ADAM DESIGN**, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

**BUILDING** Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

### Painters/ Decorators

**C I PAINTING & DECORATING** Over 30 yrs experience.City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

**DECORACE** Painter & Decorator. Quality work at reasonable prices. OAP discounts. Free quotes: 01902 635258 07876 135302.

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City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

**ADMJ**
Decorating & Maintenance
City and Guilds. No Job Too Small.
OAP Discounts
FREE QUOTES
07855 957935 01902 630028

**LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR** City and guild qualified. local, reliable, affordable. 07916 399490.

### Plastering

**ALL INTERIOR PLASTERING & CONSTRUCTION**
All work guaranteed
Competitive prices • Free quotes
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### Plumbers

**G M PLUMBING SERVICES** Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers,Blockages 07976 012468

### Plumbing & Heating

**A.A HEATING & PLUMBING** All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

**A RELIABLE PLUMBER** No job too small. No call out fee. Call Lee: 07713 149278 / 01902 330351.

**Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating**
*Full heating systems £2200*
*Boiler Changes £1100*
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

### Removals

**A2B REMOVALS** Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

**A BIG VAN & TWO MEN** Single items to full house moves. All areas. Free quotes: Call 07583 874532.

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**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**CALL IAN.** Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**
*12 years experience.*
*SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.*
*LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.*
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

**A CHEAPER REMOVAL**
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVALS.
FULLY INSURED. 7 days.
01902 89 49 16
07807 77 30 35
FREE QUOTES
Student/OAP Discounts

### Roofing

**CLIFF NICHOLLS**
*Roofing & Scaffolding*
*Rubber Roofing*
*37 years experience*
FREEPHONE
(0800) 220 - 729

**WH ROOFING CONTRACTORS**
A backed bargain, slate, tile, flat, lead work, fascias and gutterwork, Free Quotes
Call: 01902 561434 or 07792 817062
E:whroofingcontractor@mail.com

**COMPTON ROOFING**
Tiled, Slate, Flat. New and Repairs Ridge/Hip and Verges Re-bedded. Chimney rebuilding/repointing. Dry ridge and hip systems
07976 419915, 01902 448032

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**DECORATORS!**
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(T&Cs Apply)
**Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661**
**claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk**

**A1 ROOFING AND GUTTERING**
•Tile, Slate, Flat, Felt, Firestone Rubber
•All Repointing & Chimney Repairs
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•Gutter Cleans and Repairs
•Extensions and Alterations
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•Porches & Canopies •Plumbing & Electrics •Kitchens & Bathrooms
Refurbishments •UPVC Washdowns
***We are a Family run business***
***Professional and Reliable Service***
***All Genuine Quotes Beaten***
***OAP Discounts***
For a FREE Friendly Quote
8am - 8pm Call:
25% OFF
**01902 722447**

**25% OFF**
Arrow Property Maintenance
**Roofing and Guttering**
Pitched Roofing and Lead Work
Flat Roofing - Rubber - Felt
All Re-Pointing,
UPVC Fascias, Soffits & Guttering
Gutter cleans / Repairs/ UPVC Washdowns
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25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

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www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

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• New Roofs
• Repairs
• Flat Roofs
• Chimney Repairs
• 10 year guarantee with all work
• Gutters cleaned from £20
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www.jandbroofingservices.co.uk

### Rubbish Removal

**LETS TALK RUBBISH** No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

### Skip Hire

**AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE**
Mini, midi and large skips
GRAB HIRE AND MINI DIGGER AVAILABLE
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Mini, Midi, 6 Yard with doors and Builders.
7 days - Prompt Service
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**Waste management**
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Recycling services
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0121 558 2120
01543 500 599

**BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!** No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 40 years, 01384 232359.

**WOLVERHAMPTON SKIP HIRE**
MINI, MIDI & BUILDERS SKIPS WITH DOORS
*Established 26 years*
Call:
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**AT M&M SKIPS**
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
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### Tiling

**BOBS HOME INTERIORS**
Wall and floor Tiling
Bathrooms Fitted
FREE ESTIMATES
bob2granger@gmail.com
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www.bobshomeinteriors.co.uk

### Upholstery

**CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!**

"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign, also by using the local directory on expressandstar.com we are seeing benefits from visitors to our website."

*Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery*

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

**UPHOLSTERY SERVICES** 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

**BILSTON UPHOLSTERY**
◆ *Re-Upholstery Specialists*
◆ Your 3 piece Suite/ Odd Chair Re-Upholstered/ Repaired As new
◆ *100's Of Patterns Available*
◆ A Home Repair Service
◆ *Spring Repairs/ New Cushions/ Leather Repairs*
◆ Also Suite/ Carpet Cleaning Service.
◆ We specialise in recliner chair repairs

**Free Estimates | Est 40 Years**
Daisy Bank, Bilston 24 hours / 7 days a week
01902 404 698

**BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL**

01902 317878 ClassifiedAds

# 4 Pets & Animals

## Equestrian Corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

## Guns & Dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

## Pets Corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**CAVAPOO PUPPIES** and juniors, adorable pets, £650 -£850. 07867 530504.

**HAVE YOU LOST YOUR DOG?**
**Sunnyside Kennels**
We take in stray dogs from Walsall, Wolverhampton and South Staffs areas.
Please contact us on:
**01902 790618.**
Open Mon-Sat, 11am-4.45pm.

**GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS**
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
**Call 01902 291080 or visit**
**www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk**
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

**KIND HOMES WANTED**
Treacle, 6 year old British Bull Dog, really cutie would prefer to be an only dog.
Eve, Boxer cross Staffie, 7 years old, delightful medium sized, cream coloured, loved toys, house trained and good in the car.
Misty, 2 year old black and white Border Collie, friendly and pretty, good with children and other pets, loves the car.
Pipa, 9 year old brindle Boxer cross Labrador, lovely big easy going girl, loved company, ideal companion, only dog.
**www.dogsamaritans.org.uk and for information on 01588 676106.**

# 6 Property

## Overseas Property

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

## Properties Wanted

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!**
**FAST 4 Your House CASH**
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
**You agree the price, we buy the house...**
- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

**0800 999 999 6**
**01384 500 500**
30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

**CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE** Wolverhampton properties
UP TO **£25,000** CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
We can buy your house in 2 days
**0800 389 6788** 01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Terms applicable

**We buy houses**
*Sell your house fast*
- avoid repossession
- behind on payments
- job relocation
- unwanted inheritance
*What more -*
*we buy in any condition*
No estate agent fees
We pay all your legal fees
**ACT NOW !**
Contact us on :
**07796 801219 / 07988 882090**

## Accommodation To Let

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**NOTICE TO READERS**
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**FLATS & FLATLETS - TO LET** in Wolverhampton. New large 2 bedroom flats now available. Call 07590 911398 or 07428 226610

J9 Accommodation
**NO DEPOSIT**
**★MOVE IN TODAY★**
**Studios** *from* **£90pw***
**Rooms** *from* **£65pw***
**Includes Most Bills*
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
**01902 213121**
**J9accommodation.com**

**LARGE FURNISHED** Room to let, close to Black Country Museum. £90pw. 07747 311729.

**LARGE SELF CONTAINED** studio flat, CH, laundry, car park. Tettenhall Road. 01902 334081.

**ONE BED** GF refurbished flat, Wordsley, garden, patio, private parking, new kitchen/bathroom, £425pcm. Two months in advance inc refs required. 07811 406777.

# 5 Business & Farming

## Accountants

**ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES** for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

## Business Opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

# 7 Jobs

## Drivers

**HGV Class 2 Drivers required**

for Builders Merchants.

Hiab experience an advantage.

Good rates and bonus scheme.

**Apply via email: to Transport Manager**

**chrisjones@carvers.co.uk**

## Electricians

**DOMESTIC ELECTRICIAN REQUIRED** Full time local work Call 07969 057541 or e-mail hmelectrical2@outlook.com

**CV MATCHING. IT'S QUICK, EASY AND FREE**
Real opportunities for you
jobs.expressandstar.com REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

## Bar Staff

**SENIOR BAR PERSON** required by Penn Bowling & Social Club, Manor Road, Penn. 30 hours p.w. Salary TBA. Contact the Steward on 01902 342516.

## Building & Construction

**CARPENTERS / ALLROUNDERS** required, must have CSCS card, asbestos certificate and a full facefit certificate, Wolverhampton based. CV's to imdconstructionltd@yahoo.com or 01952 872272.

## Employment Wanted

**RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER**
Requires casual / part time work.
Own van / tools.
**Telephone 01384 375672 or 07527 360303.**

## Part Time - General

**SHOP ASSISTANT** required (hours to be agreed). Experience of hardware/ knowledge essential. Suit retired/semi retired. W'ton area. Enclose CV/ experience to:
Box Number P21065 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

## Security

**SECURITY/CONCIERGE Officers** Must have SIA licence/full driving licence: office@a-eservices.co.uk

## Courses

**BIRMINGHAM:** 5-6 May and 5-6 September
**STOKE:** 6-7 August **TELFORD:** 8-9 August
**WOLVERHAMPTON:** 8-9 March & 25-26 July
Accredited ocn
**Learn how to take blood**
TRAIN AS A **PHLEBOTOMIST**
**Introduction to Phlebotomy**
TWO DAY COURSE - NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info. or to book online: **www.geopace.com**
High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

## Full Time General

**Birchfield School**
Albrighton, Nr Wolverhampton, WV7 3AF
**Tel: 01902 372534**
www.birchfieldschool.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 528420

**BIRCHFIELD SCHOOL**
**Bursar and Clerk to the Governors**

We are seeking to appoint a Bursar who will have responsibility jointly to the Governors and the Head for the business management of the School and day to day administration. Candidates should have a successful record as a manager with wide organisational and administrative skills, together with practical experience of finance.
Full details of the post and application pack are available from the Bursar bursar@birchfieldschool.co.uk or via the school website www.birchfieldschool.co.uk

**Closing date 7th February 2018**

Birchfield School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

**BICKFORD**
BICKFORD TRUCK HIRE LTD.
**FABRICATOR/ WELDER X 2**
Preferably with experience of commercial truck body building and sub frames etc.
**STOREPERSON**
Duties to include day to day running of busy stores department. Negotiating rates with suppliers, issuing Job cards to workshop staff.
For the above positions please apply to:
Bickford Truck Hire, Featherstone, Wolverhampton
Email: sharon.ward@bickfordtrucks.com

## MNA Media

**SENIOR JOURNALISTS**

**The Midland News Association, publishers of the Shropshire Star and Express & Star, is looking for senior journalists to join its teams in Shropshire and Wolverhampton.**

This is the ideal role for an ambitious, dedicated and enthusiastic writer with a proven track-record of digging out the best off-diary news stories, features and analysis. You should be comfortable writing for a range of publications including newspapers and magazines, as well as producing content for our digital and social media platforms.

**You must** be an NCTJ-trained journalist, able to deliver accurate, entertaining copy to meet strict deadlines. You must have a full, clean driving licence.

**You will** benefit from a competitive salary, 25 days annual holiday and the chance to develop your career at Britain's largest independent regional news company.

**Apply by e-mail to Shropshire Star editor Martin Wright at editorial.support@shropshirestar.co.uk by 5pm on Monday, February 5.**

**Postal applications to Martin Wright, Editor, Shropshire Star, Ketley, Telford, TF1 5HU.**

Owners of Express & Star Ltd and Shropshire Newspapers Ltd
Express & Star STAR

# 8 Motoring

## Cars Over £1500

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**AUDI S LINE 2 LITRE.**
05 plate. Silver.
87,000 miles.
Full service history.
Lady driver.
Very good condition.
**Asking price £2,300.**
**Please call 07828 178241.**

**CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 DIESEL.**
2007.
68,000 miles, exclusive, electric windows, air con, long MoT, cruise control, pas, Alloys, CD.
Very good condition.
**£1,599 ono.**
**07879 403302.**

**FIAT 500 POP**
09 plate
Two careful lady owners, FSH low mileage 26,000, white, four new tyres, MoT June, excellent condition.
**£2,950.**
**01902 700758 or 07866 873207.**

**HONDA CIVIC 1.8 VTEC ES**
5-dr, manual, petrol, 44,500 miles, 2008, red, MoT till September 2018, climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, PAS
**£4,300.**
**01902 307652.**

**1ST TO SEE WILL BUY**
**MERCEDES 220 CLK COUPE**
2006.
93,000 miles.
MoT.
Immaculate condition.
**£4,200 ono.**
**0790 4168866.**

**MERCEDES BENZ B180 SPORT CDi**
Automatic, 2010 (60), FSH, Sat Nav, Air con, stereo, etc, MoT November, high miles but immaculate throughout.
**£4,000.**
**07836 44097.**

**PRESTIGE**
**MERCEDES E350 CDi SE AUTO COUPE**
2009, panoramic glass sunroof, comand sat nav, memory package, 17ins alloys, 6 disc CD/ DVD changer, 130k with FSH,
Engine needs attention.
**Hence price £4,950 ono.**
**07836 204450 / deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk**

**RENAULT TWINGO PZAZ**
2011, 17,400 miles,
fsh, abs,
electric windows,
electric mirrors,
MoT, central locking,
PAS, CD,
very good condition.
**£1,599 ono.**
**07879 403302.**

**ESTATE**
**SKODA OCTAVIA SE TDi CR ESTATE**
2015
White,
FSH
40,000 miles.
**£9,500.**
**07812 357499**
**(Wombourne).**

**ECONOMICAL**
**TOYOTA YARIS 1.3**
2005, 5dr hatchback.
2 lady owners from new.
full MoT, recently serviced.
Service history.
Immaculate condition.
**£1,850.**
**07467 562680.**

## Cars Under £1500

**BARGAIN**
**AUDI A3 CDi 1.9 DIESEL**
Black, 2000,
3dr, 8 months MoT,
80k miles, lovely condition.
**£595**
**07487 317246.**

**BARGAIN**
**CITROEN PICASSO 1.8SX**
53 reg., red, MoT April, very quiet and smooth drive, good condition, used daily.
**£350 ono**
**07961 669911.**

**4X4**
**MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT SE**
Dual fuel, 2.4cc, MoT, 04 model, automatic, 4x4, black leather interior, silver, two sunroofs, one electric, AC, EW, EM, CL, 167k miles but excellent engine, fully alarmed, factory fitted tow bar, new gas system fitted, only 55p per litre gas.
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*(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)*

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
CROCKINGTON LANE, SEISDON

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council intend not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Crockington Lane in Seisdon between its junctions with Ebstree Road and Crockington Close unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

An alternative route for traffic is available via Ebstree Road, Seisdon Road, School Road, Crockington Lane and vice versa. For more information, visit: https://roadworks.org?tm=104434588

**The order will come into operation on 22nd February 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 26th February 2018.**

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the new water connection works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

**John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change**
**No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH**

**Ref: 4096751; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre; Tel: 0300 111 8000**
**www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders http://roadworks.org**

**Date: 1st February 2018**

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ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
PATTINGHAM ROAD, PERTON

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council intend not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Pattingham Road in Perton from a point 500 metres west of its junction with Jenny Walkers Lane in a generally easterly direction for a distance of approximately 780 metres unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

Alternative routes for traffic will be signed on site depending on the works. For more information, visit: https://roadworks.org?tm=104310168

**The order will come into operation on 19th February 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works, which will take place between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30, will be completed by 24th February 2018.**

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the BT Openreach works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

**John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change**
**No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH**

**Ref: 4096707; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre; Tel: 0300 111 8000**
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**Date: 1st February 2018**

# 10 Personals

## General

**PACE**
**Dave**

We are sad to announce the death of Dave, who sadly passed away at The Shrubbery Nursing Home, Wednesbury, aged 75 years.

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Punjabi Wolves and Wolves on Tour link up to enjoy a fun day out at away games

Drums help with the jovial atmosphere

Fans line up to drum up support for their beloved Wolves

Dancing girls add glamour to the celebrations

# Fans unite to create carnival atmosphere

**IT is fan travel, but with a difference. Punjabi Wolves Supporters and Wolves on Tour have linked up to provide a 'carnival atmosphere' on away days.**

With the success of Nuno Espirito Santo's charges this season, sitting at the top of the Championship, various groups are putting on coaches to games.

Tatter Travels ran its largest-ever operation for the Carabao Cup loss at Manchester City earlier this season, providing eight coaches.

But the Punjabi Wolves Supporters and Wolves on Tour partnership took a different approach. Their focus was on quality, not quantity. Andy Sahota, who helped set up Punjabi Wolves back in 2007, said: "There's 50 of us, we don't want to do quantity – we want to do quality.

## Welcome

"We want to keep the numbers low, but everybody that comes with us has a good time. We want to be like a family, at the end of the day. The people on the coach, we want to know them all. We welcome everybody."

One of the most popular Wolves supporters groups, Punjabi Wolves have made waves this season with their drum-led celebrations after games.

Wolves on Tour only started last campaign, but have gained a good following in that short time. Trips to Man City in October and Reading in November were hugely successful, as was the short journey to Birmingham.

"What we are trying to achieve is a carnival atmosphere," Sahota explained. "We want to try to create that, every game we go to. We want people from all different backgrounds to get together and have a good time.

"Going forward, that's what we are trying to do – we are trying to make it different from what other people are doing. We want to theme them and have a good time, a carnival."

**SPORTING FEATURE**

By Joe Edwards

***"We want to keep the numbers low, but everybody that comes with us has a good time. We want to be like a family, at the end of the day. The people on the coach, we want to know them all. We welcome everybody."***

Wolves on Tour is run by Ash Wilde. The relationship between his group and Punjabi Wolves started with the game at Nottingham Forest in September, which Nuno's men won 2-1.

Sahota added: "Our first travel was to Sunderland in 2007 and all we've wanted is people from all different backgrounds to have a good time – it doesn't matter where you are from. It's about enjoying yourself and partying.

"Ash got in touch with us and it's helped both parties, really – they've got the following, we've got the vibes and the quality. It works hand in hand."

Wilde insists Wolves on Tour came about following the buzz around a Facebook page he set up, called Wolverhampton Wanderers FC News and Chat.

On the partnership with Punjabi Wolves, he said: "It was a great combination, which started with Nottingham Forest away.

"We had been communicating since last season and I knew about the buzz, everything they bring to the away travel.

"Nottingham Forest, we were both talking and said 'let's link up and see how it goes'.

"Since then, we have done Sheffield United, Man City which was brilliant and Reading with themed travel – a carnival atmosphere. It's just brilliant and it's about being a family and having fun. We started at the tail end of last season, in January, so we are quite new to the game but it's good fun.

"We basically started out from the Facebook page – Wolverhampton Wanderers FC News and Chat – and went on from there.

"We thought we'd have a go at the travelling, and it's good fun."

## Memorable

For Sahota and Wilde, the aim for any away match was to make it enjoyable and memorable for anybody who decides to travel with them.

And Wilde recognises that has been a lot easier to do now Wolves are playing at a very high level, as they have been for the vast majority of this term.

"When the team is playing well, everyone wants to go – there is a good vibe," he added.

"The football is the best I have seen in my lifetime – it's just unreal.

"There is a buzz about everyone, away games sell out in seconds. It's fantastic."

There are currently no further plans for Punjabi Wolves and Wolves on Tour to work together, with both groups focusing on their own activities.

# Ghent ready to step back in at Genting

TOMMY Ghent believes the Genting Arena will be the perfect venue to get fans excited again following his four year hiatus from the sport.

The 25-year-old Coseley boxer will compete on BCB Boxing's 'Now Or Never' show on February 23 on the undercard of Frankie Gavin's bid for the IBO World Welterweight Championship against Bethuel Ushona.

'Gladiator' has been reinvigorated since returning to boxing with his brother Richie in his corner and wants to use this next fight to show why he is a title contender. He said: "Everything is going well. I am getting back into my stride again and I am looking forward to getting back in the ring.

"Having my brother around is fantastic. I am learning every day and I am being pushed to my limit which is what I want."

The show is packed full of local boxers and Ghent is delighted to be involved. "It is really exciting to be fighting in the Genting but I don't think I will be fazed by it," he said.

Tickets, from £40, are available from theticketfactory.com

# Grapple for position to see stars of WWE

SUPERSTARS of American wrestling will be in action in Birmingham later this year. Grapple fans can enjoy all the thrills and spills as WWE Live returns to the Genting Arena.

Roman Reigns takes on The Miz in an Intercontinental Championship match, while also set to join the line up are the Ikes of Seth Rollins, Braun Strowman, Cesaro & Sheamus, Finn Balor, Alexa Bliss, Sasha Banks and Asuka.

The event has been described as a unique blend of sport and entertainment, combining in-ring match action with dramatic entertainment. Bursting with all the drama and energy of a rock concert, in a fun, lively and exciting environment, WWE Live is the ultimate in family entertainment.

The action takes place on Tuesday, May 15, with tickets available, priced at £9.15/£51.75/£68.70/£80 (including admin fees and 90p facility fee) plus a £2.55 fulfilment fee per order, available at www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. VIP tickets are also on offer.

# Kiwi all-rounder back for a blast with Bears

NEW ZEALAND all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme wants to go 'one step further' after rejoining Birmingham Bears for the 2018 Twenty20 Blast.

The 31-year-old helped the Bears to the final at Edgbaston last year, scoring 322 runs at a strike-rate of 170.32, as well as taking five wickets. In the final, they lost to Nottinghamshire Outlaws by 22 runs and de Grandhomme said he was hoping to go one better this time around

"I absolutely loved my time with the Bears last season," he said. "We played some excellent T20 cricket and came very close to winning the T20 Blast on Finals Day.

"We've got a young squad with plenty of firepower, and I believe that we have every chance of going one step further in 2018. Playing in-front of a big crowd at Edgbaston with the fans in full voice is a special experience and I'm looking forward to returning to the Bears in July."

Bears' sport director Ashley Giles said: "He went on to play a huge role on our path to the final last year."

# Kelly's eye on 'FA Cup of darts' slot

Mark Craddock, left, and Liam Kelly

LIAM Kelly and Mark Craddock have booked their places at the 'FA Cup of Darts' after coming through qualifiers in Wolverhampton.

Dudley's Kelly and Cannock's Craddock fought their way to the last two to get their chance at glory at the 2018 UK Open.

The finals are at Butlin's Minhead from March 2-4, broadcast on ITV4 and Rileys Sports Bars are working alongside the PDC to produce 32 'wildcards' to join the latter's professionals, making up a 96-strong field.

Kelly and Craddock prevailed from the first weekend of competition, which attracted 196 entrants.

Craddock emerged from the last eight over Neil Steventon 4-2, while Luis Barberan went down by the same score to Chris Stokes. Rugeley's Mark Hylton came from 2-0 down to see off Shaun Carroll 4-2. Kelly battled past Terence Hancox.

A hotly-anticipated semi-final, the best of nine legs, saw Kelly whitewash Hylton, a former PDC professional regular, 5-0. Craddock stormed past Stokes 5-1. The next event is on February 18. Anybody over 16 can compete, but entries cannot be made on the day.

Applications can be made in person at Rileys until 5pm the previous day. Call 01902 310521. The online cut-off is 24 hours before the event at www.rileys.co.uk/tournaments

Entry is £7. There is a strict dress code of trousers, shoes and either a shirt or polo shirt. Players must sign in by midday, with the draw at 12.30pm and the action at 1.30pm.

# Pirates visit Wolves' den for speedway curtain-raiser

WOLVES Speedway will kick-off their 2018 campaign with a Premiership showdown against Poole.

The Wolves welcome the Pirates to Monmore on Monday, March 26. That is followed by an Easter Monday double bill against Belle Vue in the Knockout Cup, with the quarter-final first leg in Manchester at noon and the return in Wolverhampton at 8pm.

The regular season is due to finish on Monday September 10 when they host Rye House. Fixtures in full:

**MARCH**
**26** Poole (H)
**APRIL**
**2** Belle Vue (a) (12pm) KOC QF1
**2** Belle Vue (H) (8pm) KOC QF2
**4** Poole (a)
**9** Swindon (H)
**11** King's Lynn (a)
**16** Rye House (H)
**25** Rye House (a)
**30** King's Lynn (H)
**MAY**
**7** Belle Vue (a)
**14** Somerset (H)
**17** Swindon (a)
**21** Leicester (a)
**28** Poole (H)
**JUNE**
**13** Somerset (a)
**25** Leicester (H)
**27** Leicester (a)
**JULY**
**9** Somerset (H)
**11** Poole (a)
**23** Belle Vue (H)
**30** Swindon (a)
**AUGUST**
**6** Leicester (H)
**8** Somerset (a)
**13** King's Lynn (a)
**15** Rye House(a)
**20** Swindon (H)
**27** Belle Vue (a)
**27** Belle Vue (H)
**SEPTEMBER**
**3** King's Lynn (H)
**10** Rye House (H)

# Seven-point lead opened up at the top by Dynamo

LATE goals proved crucial for reigning Redbox Signmakers Beacon champions **Dynamo Dudley** as they saw off one of rivals **New Gate Inn** in a six goal thriller.

Dynamo went on to claim a 12th victory in 13 games, 4-2, with three left to play.

It enabled Dynamo to open up a seven point gap at the top. Nearest challengers **Old Cross Athletic** have two games in hand.

On a day when the weather led to three postponements, a memorable strike from Kane Lewis secured all three points for **Claregate Park Rangers** as they edged a 2-1 home success against **AFC Vale**.

Last season's leading league marksman Kyle Thorp was in clinical form for **FC Premier** who crushed hosts **Black Country Rangers** 8-0.

**Penn Rovers** made it three successive league wins, and kept their first clean sheet of the season, when running out worthy 4-0 victors against **AFC Sporting Gornal**.

In the final fixture of the week, **AFC Pensnett Panthers** twice came from behind to pick up maximum points in their Concentric Sales & Lettings Clinton Cup group qualifier away to **AFC Springfield**, running out 4-3 winners.

There is a big cup date for Dynamo Dudley on Sunday when they visit Wolverhampton Sunday league outfit Old Bulls Head in the quarter finals of the Birmingham County FA Sunday Vase.

# Palmer again leader of the Wulfs pack

**OLD boss Steve Palmer is back in the hot-seat at AFC Wulfrunians – but does not intend to stay beyond the end of the season.**

Palmer stepped down at the end of the last campaign after five years at the helm. He remained on the committee and returned after the departure of Richard Forsyth last week.

However, he said: We want to freshen things up in the summer."

Palmer's first game back at the helm was a 2-0 loss to Bromsgrove Sporting at the Castlecroft Stadium on Saturday.

"It all just needed a bit of stabilising until the end of the season," he said. "We were 2-0 down after 11 minutes and I thought to myself, 'What the hell have I let myself in for?'

"In fairness to the lads, though, they showed some character after that and came away from the game with a bit of pride."

## Grateful

Wulfrunians are 11th in the Midland League Premier table, with 32 points from 27 games.

Tim Tipton, who served as No.2 to Palmer and former Blues and Kidderminster player Forsyth, has stayed on. AFC Wulfrunians match secretary Simon Cater said: "Steve has agreed to take over for the rest of the season. Richard leaves with our best wishes and we are grateful for what he has done. He is an absolutely top bloke and their is no animosity whatsoever."

Forsyth, 47, believes he had taken Wulfs as far as he could with the resources available.

"It's mainly down to the budget," he said. "The club competes with one of the smallest budgets in the league. It's no-one's fault, but I felt like my hands were tied and I'd taken the club as far as I could with the resources available."

Elsewhere Four goals by debutant Jack Jeys helped third-placed Sporting Khalsa prevail in an eight-goal thriller at Worcester City. Skipper Tesfa Robinson also struck in a 5-3 victory.

# Coach Thomas springs into action

Kristian Thomas with Park Wrekin elite programme head coach Brett Ince

OLYMPIC hero Kristian Thomas has joined the coaching staff at Telford gymnastics club Park Wrekin.

Thomas, who was born in Wolverhampton, trained at Earls Gym, Halesowen and now lives in Cannock, was a 2015 European gold medallist and member of Team GB's bronze medal-winning London 2012 men's artistic gymnastics squad. He joins Park Wrekin as head of the club's recreational programme.

He was guest of honour at the launch of the club's new premises in September and cut the ribbon to launch a £200,000 investment in new Olympic-quality equipment and facilities.

Christine Still, head coach at Park Wrekin and trust board member said: "We are all very excited by Kristian joining our coaching team."

Thomas said: "I am privileged to become a part of their team."

# Tournament semi-finalists are revealed

LUCAS, Sam 2, Stourbridge Jets Black and Libra Lea Navy are Wolverhampton City Netball League Open Tournament semi-finalists.

Whitmore Y edged out clubmates X in Division 1. Wordsley Storks are creeping up the table in Division 2.

Whitmore T beat Lunes in Division 3, while Division 4 saw Libra Lea Aqua gain victory over Oddessy.

**Results:** Open Tournament: Phoenix 17 Lucas 19; Flames 20 Sam 2 29; Stourbridge Jets Black 36 Ladybirds 18.
**Division 1**: Sam 4 12 Sapphires 28; Whitmore X 23 Whitmore Y 27; Lucas 16 Phoenix 23.
**Division 2**: Crescent 18 Wordsley Storks 28; Eurostars 12 Phoenix Hornets 36.
**Division 3**: Lunes 15 Whitmore T 32; Cresta 22 Whitmore Z 24; Blaze 13 Stourbridge Jets Blue 15; Dolls 2 13 Phoenix Scorpions 29.
**Division 4**: Diamonds 25 Jupiter 19; Libra Lea Aqua 20 Oddessy 11.
**Division 5**: Allsortz 14 Zimmers 7; Smestow Ladies 11 Stourbridge Jets White

# Paddock looks to add to his Sporting squad

BOSS Andy Paddock hopes to sign some more players as West Midlands Premier title-chasers Wolverhampton Sporting face a fixture backlog.

Sporting have played one league game in 2018 due to progress in cup competitions and a spate of postponements. They have slipped to fourth in the table – nine points behind leaders Malvern Town, but with six games in hand.

Their game against Bewdley Town at the weekend was called off due to a waterlogged pitch. They face Leighton Town in the FA Vase on Saturday and Paddock said: "We really wanted Saturday's game to be on so we didn't fall further behind. We'll try to add more numbers to the squad in case of any injuries."

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# Sport

Banging the drum for a carnival atmosphere

Page 50

## Permanent deal for Jota in summer

WOLVES will sign Diogo Jota on a permanent transfer in the summer – and are also believed to be interested in re-signing Benik Afobe.

Jota is on-loan from Atletico Madrid for the season and Wolves have an exclusive option to make the deal a permanent one.

Executive chairman Jeff Shi said the deal would be confirmed by July 1, adding: "Diogo has been an important player for Wolves this year and his abilities are clear for everybody to see."

Meanwhile, it is understood Wolves are believed to be interested in bringing back Afobe from Bournemouth.

The 24-year-old is currently down the pecking order at the Premier League side. However, while Wolves are thought to be seeking a one-off loan deal, the Cherries want to either sell Afobe or loan him out with a view to a permanent deal.

This is the third consecutive transfer window in which Wolves have at least inquired about Afobe, who scored 23 goals in 12 months at the club. There was no deal to be done in the summer, with Afobe's reluctance to drop into the Championship one of the reasons. But with Afobe having only made five league starts this season the landscape has changed.

He moved for £10million in January 2016 but has struggled to claim a regular starting berth, with 32 of his 63 Premier League appearances coming off the bench. Afobe has netted 10 league goals for Eddie Howe's team, but has netted only once in 22 appearances this season.

Ben Marshall, meanwhile, was expected to leave before Wednesday night's 11pm deadline. The club would also hope to get Joe Mason back out on loan.

## Iorfa eyes return to Premier Wolves

FORGOTTEN man Dominic Iorfa will thrash out his Wolves future this summer – but wants to stay at the club.

Iorfa is on loan to Ipswich Town for the rest of the season. However, under the terms of his deal, the 22-year-old had to sit out Saturday's game.

He's confident Wolves will be in the Premier League in 2018/19 – and would love to join them.

"From what I've seen from them they should get promoted, really," Iorfa said.

"I have no idea what the future holds because if they get promoted I can see them spending again so hopefully I can do as well as I can with the loan to be in their thinking and we'll see what happens at the end of the season."

He added: "I'm still contracted to Wolves and I still have an eye on them too, so until they say they don't want me I have hopes of being in their plans. When the season is done I'll sit down with them and see what happens. My focus is on Ipswich and we have a play-off push so my mind is fully on that."

## Players encounter Fury at training camp

Danny Batth with Tyson Fury

IT was a clash of the titans as would-be champions of the English Football League met up with the former heavyweight champion of the world.

Wolves stars took time out from their sunshine training break to Marbella to meet boxer Tyson Fury, currently at his own training camp at the same resort.

The self-styled Gypsy King posed with players including club captain Danny Batth, young goalkeeper Will Norris and playmaker and join top-goalscorer Diogo Jota. And Fury, who is set to regain his boxing licence ahead of a long-awaited return to the ring, proved a big hit with the Molineux men.

Skipper Batth tweeted: "Bigman all the best! Only a passing visit but can't wait to see him back in the ring @Tyson_Fury". Meanwhile, 5ft10ins, 11stone Diogo Jota posted a picture with the 6ft8in 20stone fighter with the caption: "No chance for him!"

Diogo Jota meets the boxer

# MATT FINISH TO WEEK AWAY

**NUNO Espirito Santo believes Wolves' Marbella trip did wonders for their team spirit – and did not rule out bringing in new players before Wednesday's transfer deadline.**

Wolves' 1-0 win at Ipswich Town on Saturday – Matt Docherty scoring – ended a four-game winless run and extended the lead to 12 points ahead of Derby's game at Millwall on Tuesday.

The squad arrived at Portman Road on the back of a week-long excursion to Spain. And Nuno said the players forged strong bonds during their mid-season break.

"They created bonds that are important," he said. "Besides the hard work they did there, the bonds and the time spent together away from the pitch, that creates a lot of things that are important in the competition.

### Friendship

"Sticking together, helping each other, that says a lot. They gain the credit that allowed ourselves to go and at the same time work and relax. Most importantly is the friendship they've built between them.

"It's a fantastic group in that respect. A lot of people say the players that came in would find it difficult to adapt and all these things but the players that were here before, this is the strong point of this, the way they received the new players and built this group of men that want to work and succeed together."

Wolves have made only one splash in the transfer market this window so far, signing 20-year-old striker Rafa Mir.

Nuno didn't rule out further additions before the deadline, though. He said: "It's open, like I always say.

"We're really pleased with the squad but the market is there so we have to stay wise and realise if a good chance comes, okay."

## Respects paid to icon Cyrille

The gathering at The Hawthorns as the hearse leaves for the funeral of Cyrille Regis, inset

HUNDREDS of football fans gathered at The Hawthorns and lined roads leading to the ground to say their final farewell to Cyrille Regis at his funeral on Tuesday.

The pioneering former Albion, Villa and Wolves footballer died on January 14 from a suspected heart attack at the age of 59. He paved the way for a generation of black footballers, and, after a private family funeral, his life was celebrated at The Hawthorns with a public service attended by 1,800 people.

Tributes were paid by those closest to him from the world of sport and entertainment, including ex-team-mate Brendon Batson, his widow Julia and his nephew former Albion footballer Jason Roberts. Donations were made in lieu of flowers to The Jason Roberts Foundation, Water Aid and Christians in Sport.

## Leaders hand women first defeat of year

**Boro Women 7 Wolves Women 1**

AFTER a host of cup games at the start of the year, Wolves Women returned to league action against table-toppers Middlesbrough and suffered their first defeat of 2018.

Wolves got off to a bright start and had the first chance of the game from a corner, but Anna Price's shot was blocked.

After chances at either end it was Middlesbrough who went ahead in the seventh minute. Keeper Katie Clarke made the initial save but the ball fell to Emily Scarr who slotted home.

Middlesbrough doubled their lead in the 12th minute as a clearance fell to Jess Havelock and her shot curled past Clarke.

Wolves managed to pull one back in the 29th minute through Laura McQulkin.

But it was Boro next on the scoresheet as Scarr notched her second.

Wolves rang the changes, bringing on substitutes Billie Haynes, Charlotte Criddle and Courtney Jones, but they could not withstand the late pressure from Middlesbrough, who scored four quick goals in the last ten minutes, with Scarr completing her hat trick, Georgia Owens getting two and Emma Kelly adding another.

Wolves Women now have a week off before they entertain Derby County Ladies at Hednesford Town FC on February 11. Admission is £2, concessions and Wolves season ticket holders £1.

## Gibbs-White pens extended contract

WOLVES starlet Morgan Gibbs-White has signed a new long-term contract with the club.

The 18-year-old has penned a four-and-a-half-year deal to tie him to Molineux until 2022.

Gibbs-White made his first-team debut just over a year ago and has since made 11 appearances. He won the Under-17 World Cup with England, scoring in the final as they beat Spain 5-2.

A delighted Gibbs-White said: "The club has done so much for me so it was only right for me to sign a new contract here and extend my Wolves career even longer."

★★★

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**Smithridge Healthcare** are an independent, leading provider of highly skilled Nurses and Health Care Professionals to the private sector covering the Midlands, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire. We profiled the business to find out more and explore how it aims to offer the very highest standards of service and support to its valued clients.

Smithridge Healthcare is an independent Nursing and Healthcare staffing provider which focuses on providing clients with the very highest standard of service. As part of this client focus, we provide highly skilled Nurses and Health Care professionals 24 hours per day, 365 days a year.

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Overall, Smithridge Healthcare is an ever-growing business, and moving forward, continued growth is the core focus, as the company has recently opened an additional branch in Worcester. Longer term, the firm's aim is to expand into different regions of the country and to apply other revenue streams into this already successful business, allowing Smithridge Healthcare to prosper and provide its exceptional standards of healthcare to an even wider range of clients.

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# What separates us from other Health Care providers?

## About Us

Smithridge Healthcare Ltd was established with the aim of becoming the healthcare staffing provider of choice to its clients and service users.

We are an independent Nursing and Healthcare staffing provider who's ethics are totally customer focused, meaning we are able to provide highly skilled Nurses and Health Care workers 24 hours per day, 365 days a year.

The needs of our clients and service user groups are diverse, ranging from individuals requiring one to one care, Acute NHS hospitals and rehabilitation centre's to public and Private sector Nursing and Care homes.

Our service is based on working with our clients to provide quality staff who meet their needs, whether those needs be for one off cover, longer term block bookings or for innovative national projects, we will help you find the most cost effective healthcare solution.

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### *Here's what a few of our clients and employees had to say about Smithridge Health Care Limited*

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*Victor - Temporary Worker*

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*Geanette - Home Manager*

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